

January 25, 1998  
U.K. motor racing hero Mansell banned from driving  
Woody Allen doesn't believe in lawyers or courts  
Spice Girls hire cooks for huge-less world  
Liz Taylor and the Steiger reportedly romantically linked  
Boy 12 is Britain's youngest father  
Thriller treasure on U.S. tour

## Jewish settlers renovating 18 homes in Muslim quarter

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Jewish settlers have begun renovating 18 homes in the Muslim quarter of Jerusalem's Old City, aiming to move Jewish families into them by April, a spokesman said Sunday. Yossi Kaufman, a leader of the settler group, said the homes were purchased "a long time ago" with the help of the Ateret Cohanim Foundation, which partially funded by American millionaire Irving Moskowitz. He confirmed that renovation of the houses had begun in the past week, when volunteers took measurements, stripped walls, and began cleaning. Ateret Cohanim has been leading a campaign to settle Jews in Arab east Jerusalem, which Palestinians hope to make the capital of a future state.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

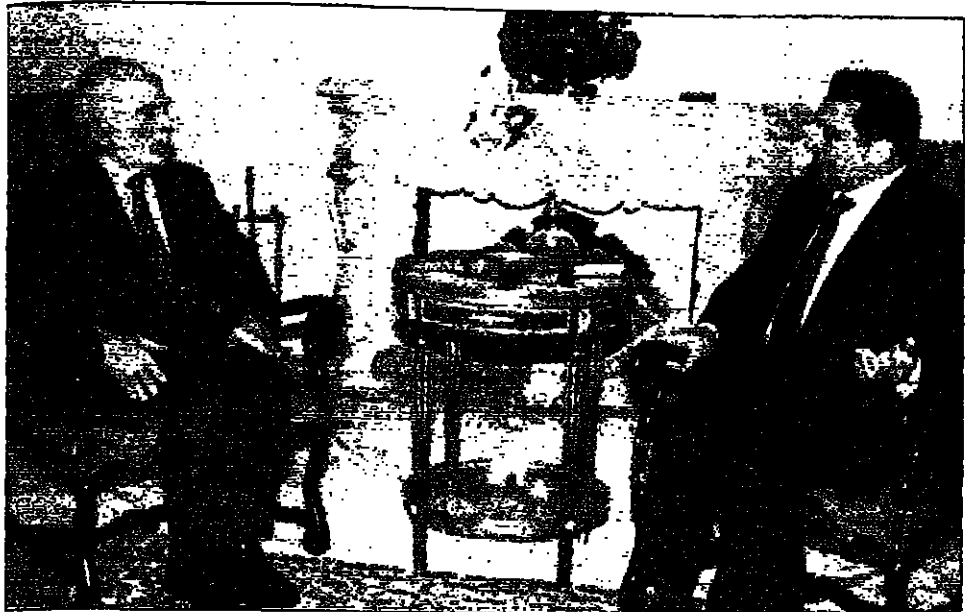
## Norwegian envoys arrive in Algeria

ALGIERS (AFP) — Two senior diplomats from Norway, Odd Wibe and Kjell Oestrem, arrived Sunday in Algiers for a two-day visit to discuss the ongoing violence in Algeria. The visit takes place "in the framework of political consultations between the two countries," a government spokesman said. But the Norwegian foreign ministry said earlier that Mr. Wibe, one of its top bureaucrats, and Mr. Oestrem, its ambassador to Tunis who is also accredited to Algiers, would seek to discuss the troubles in Algeria "in all their aspects." Last Tuesday three junior foreign ministers representing the European Union paid a 24-hour visit to Algiers. Their findings are to be reported Monday to an EU foreign ministers' conference.

Volume 23 Number 6748

AMMAN MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 1998, RAMADAN 28, 1418

Price: Jordan 200 fils



His Majesty King Hussein meets Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo on Sunday. The two leaders discussed the latest developments in the Middle East peace process (Reuters photo)

## Talks with Mubarak 'extremely successful' — Monarch

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday described his short visit to Cairo and his talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak as fruitful. "This extremely successful visit enabled me and my brother President Mubarak to talk about current affairs which we are living through and the requirements of the next stages," King Hussein said on return back home Sunday evening. In reply to a question on the aim of his visit, King Hussein said: "You can assume that the aim of the visit is to serve our causes and the status of our [Arab] Nation in the present and in the future and to help it face all the developments." On the peace process, the King said that the issue was tackled in depth and an appropriate conclusion was reached in this regard. "This is a very hard moment for the history of the region but I hope that we will work together in the future to be in a

position that enables our nation to face the challenges." "I hope that we will witness some changes that would push the peace process to where it should actually have been," the King said. Replying to a question on Iraq, King Hussein said: "We have not discussed the subject of Iraq... because Iraq behaves according to its wishes and the outside world responds in different ways and we are, regrettably, out of the picture." King Hussein and Mr. Mubarak held a closed-door meeting during which they reviewed the latest developments in the Middle East, particularly the peace process and the obstacles hindering its progress, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. The two leaders stressed the need for safeguarding the peace process and overcoming all obstacles facing it, Petra reported. They also discussed bilateral relations, the scopes for promoting them further, as well as

issues of common concern to both countries, the agency said. Also discussed at the meeting were questions pertaining to Arab solidarity and coordination to put the peace process back on track. King Hussein, who paid a short visit to Egypt, was accompanied by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh. The King was received upon arrival at Cairo airport by President Mubarak, Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Jazouli and senior Egyptian officials. Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa told reporters that King Hussein's visit marks the "beginning of a series of inter-Arab consultations." The talks with the sovereign "follow the meetings in Washington," Mr. Musa said, adding that "Israel's opposition to progress is dangerous."

## Marking Laylat Al Qadar Palestinian youths, Israeli police clash in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — About a dozen Palestinians threw rocks and empty bottles Saturday night near the walled Old City where Muslims marked Laylat Al Qadar, one of the holiest events in the Muslim calendar. Dozens of Israeli police scuffled with the stone throwers outside the Damascus Gate of the Old City. One Palestinian was wounded in the head after he was hit by a bottle and was given medical treatment on site. Police spokesman Shmuel Ben Rubi said that in the course of the scuffle, one rubber coated bullet was fired in the air by the police, but no one was hit. Police were on high alert for Laylat Al Qadar, the

night the Koran was revealed to the Prophet Mohammad, which falls in the last week of Ramadan, a monthlong period during which Muslims fast during the day. On that night, Muslims gather in worship, believing the skies are open for prayers to easily reach God. It is a time of increased religious fervor when thousands of faithful spend the night in prayer at Al Aqsa Mosque compound, Jerusalem's holiest Muslim shrine. In recent years, there have usually been some stone throwing clashes during Laylat Al Qadar. Israeli police on Saturday deployed hundreds of troops around the Old City, where Al Aqsa is located.

## Challenges facing region do not differentiate between Muslim, Christian — Prince Hassan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Sunday that the challenges facing the Arab region do not differentiate between people on religious grounds, and therefore Arab Christians and Muslims are bound to work together to achieve progress and better standards of living for all, and to confront such challenges as poverty, unemployment, extremism and ideological extremism. Speaking in an interview with Monte Carlo Radio broadcast Sunday, Prince Hassan laid emphasis to the need for enabling both Muslims and Christians of the region to cling to their homeland. In the interview about

Christians in the Arab World, the Crown Prince said: "The Arab Christians and Muslims have worked, as we the Hashemites have been honoured since the start of this Arab renaissance, and are bound to work at the present and in the future, towards ensuring a better life for all." In reply to a question on whether he perceives a common role for Arab Muslims and Christians in establishing peace and stability in the Middle East, Prince Hassan said: "The question assumes that Christianity and the Christians are aliens to the Arab and Islamic society and this is an erroneous assumption." Christianity, he said, con-

tributed to Islamic history and culture for 14 centuries and contributed in the building of the material and moral structure of the Islamic civilisation. In the interview which was conducted on the occasion of the publishing of Prince Hassan's book, "Christianity in the Arab World" that recently appeared in Paris in French, the Crown Prince said: "The Arab renaissance requires the active participation of Christians and Muslims so as to lay the modern foundation of the civic society." He said it was necessary to develop a new "Abrahamic" language, as recently suggested. (Continued on page 7)

## Jordan may release Iraqi prisoners in return for Baghdad's move — Majali Prime minister rejects Lower House quota for women on basis of 'women and men are equal'

By Hind-Lara Mango  
Special to the Jordan Times  
AMMAN — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali said on Sunday that the government might consider the release of Iraqi prisoners held in local jails after Baghdad's decision last week to free 92 Jordanian prisoners and detainees. In a wide ranging interview with the Jordan Times, the prime minister ruled out a reshuffle of his 10-month-old Cabinet. "The issue of a [Cabinet] reshuffle or change is under

His Majesty's jurisdiction," Dr. Majali said. "So far, there is nothing about a reshuffle." Official sources have said that Dr. Majali, who took over in March while Parliament was in recess, was widely expected to reshuffle his 24-member Cabinet in the coming days after the 1998 budget was recently endorsed by the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament. Some said they believed that Dr. Majali, Jordan's former chief peace negotiator, will remove at least 10

ministers in the reshuffle — expected sometime after the end of the Eid Al Fitr feast. The feast ends on Sunday. Al Arab Al Yawm daily on Sunday alluded that Senate Speaker Zeid Rifai, a former prime minister, was holding consultations to form a new government. But sources close to Mr. Rifai denied the speculation. Dr. Majali has already won a vote of confidence from the Lower House, elected in the Nov. 4 ballot that was boycotted by the

influential Islamic Action Front Party. Dr. Majali said during the interview that the government had not yet completed preparations to introduce three main laws regulating future elections, professional associations and political parties to help modernise Jordan's political life. King Hussein promised the new legislations to regulate all aspects of political life when he inaugurated the first parliamentary session. (Continued on page 7)

## Arafat briefs Algerian president, heads for Tunisia

ALGIERS (R) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat briefed Algerian President Liamine Zeroual on Sunday on the deadlocked Middle East peace process and his talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington. The official Algerian news agency APS said President Arafat went into talks with President Zeroual after being greeted upon his arrival at Algiers airport by Foreign Minister Ahmad Azaoui and President Liamine Zeroual's senior diplomatic adviser Abdelkader Taffar. He later left for Tunisia, the agency said. APS said the Palestinian leader told reporters on arrival in Algiers that "several questions [over Israeli intransigence] will be examined in the course of my visit to several Arab and European Union countries about facing these positions which are dangerous for the Palestinian people and the Middle East region." Earlier, Mr. Arafat had briefed Moroccan King Hassan as part of a tour of North African countries on his return from Washington. In Rabat, a Palestinian official said: "President Arafat had a very successful meeting with his majesty and discussed the talks in Washington and expectations from the peace process." That meeting, late on Saturday, lasted more than an hour, a senior Moroccan official said earlier. President Arafat will travel to London on Monday, the Palestinian official said, adding that he did not have Mr. Arafat's "agenda" there and did not know who he would be meeting. In Washington, Mr. Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu held separate meetings with President Bill Clinton, who tried but failed to jump-start the peace process. Mr. Clinton had sought to persuade Mr. Netanyahu to agree to a "significant and credible" troop withdrawal in return for a tougher Palestinian crackdown on guerrilla violence. Israeli news reports said Mr. Netanyahu had refused to go beyond 9.5 per cent, and President Arafat made clear the Israeli premier's offer came nowhere near Palestinian demands. (Continued on page 7)

## Rashid denies Jordan requested assistance from Scotland Yard in Rabia investigation

By Tareq Ayyoub  
Special to the Jordan Times  
AMMAN — Minister of Interior Nuhair Rashid on Sunday dismissed news reports that Jordan sought the assistance of Scotland Yard in the investigation to unveil the identity of those responsible for the mass murder of six Iraqis in Amman including Iraq's charge d'affaires and his wife. "This information is not true. We did not request any assistance from any party in our investigation," Mr. Rashid told the Jordan Times, adding that the investigation was being carried out only by Jordanian security officials.

The minister was responding to reports which appeared in the press and a statement made by a British embassy official in Amman on Sunday. "The government of Jordan has called for help from the Scotland Yard to supply Jordan with information but we do not know what is the nature of this information demanded by the government," the embassy official, who asked not to be identified, had said. However, the Jordanian request does not include sending British experts to assist Jordanian security in their hunt for the attackers, the British official added. Among the victims of the

Jan. 16 slayings was the Iraqi diplomat Hikmat Hajo. Nuhair Ochi, a brother of the Iraqi billionaire Nazmi Ochi who carries a British citizenship, and his friend Sami George who owns the house where the murder took place. Two other Iraqis, the Egyptian guard of the house and one of his relatives were among those killed in the attack. Mr. Rashid did not confirm or deny that those who committed the crime had left the country or still here. "But I believe that we will have good news [about possible arrests] after Eid Al Fitr," Mr. Rashid said. The minister did not elaborate.

## Countdown to U.S. strike against Iraq said imminent

WASHINGTON (R) — A countdown to a U.S. military strike against Iraq could begin as soon as Ramadan, the Holy Month of fasting ends on Friday, the New York Times reported on Sunday, quoting White House officials. "There'll be one final round of diplomacy, and then an ultimatum, and then we act," a national security council official told the newspaper. U.S. President Bill Clinton (Continued on page 7)

## U.S. to propose phased withdrawal — report

JERICHO (AP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's chief negotiator said Sunday that with the peace process still mired despite a U.S. push, direct contacts and trust between the Palestinians and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have broken down completely. Saeb Erekat said the Palestinians would agree to international arbitration to get the peace process going again in the wake of continuing disagreement over each side's outstanding obligations. "Mr. Netanyahu has no more cards to play," Mr. Erekat told reporters. "We don't know what the new inventions of Mr. Netanyahu will be in order to obstruct the implementation of the agreement." Meanwhile, the Israeli daily Haaretz reported that the United States is working on a proposal for Israel to pull out of 12 per cent of the West Bank in three stages over an 80-day period in return a Palestinian crackdown on anti-Israeli groups. Mr. Netanyahu and President Arafat both met with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington last week to try to bridge gaps over

implementing last year's U.S.-backed agreement in which Israel pledged three more troop pullbacks in the West Bank by mid-1998. The scope of each withdrawal was never specified, and Israel disagrees with the Palestinians' interpretation that it must ultimately expand their autonomy — which currently covers 27 per cent of the West Bank — to nine-tenths of the territory. Furthermore, Israel believes its deviations from

(Continued on page 7)

## Israel's defence minister expected to hold talks with King today

By Alia A. Toukan  
Special to the Jordan Times  
AMMAN — Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai is expected to visit Amman today for talks with King Hussein amidst controversy over the extent of the next troop redeployment in the West Bank, officials told the Jordan Times Sunday. One official said discussions will focus on the stalled Middle East peace process. No further details on the talks were disclosed, the latest in a string of recent meetings between the King

and Israeli politicians. Mr. Mordechai is considered to be the only remaining moderate in Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's hard-line cabinet, after last month's resignation of Foreign Minister David Levy in protest over the government's tough budget and peace policies. He has threatened to resign if the long-delayed troop redeployment does not take place in the next three months. Mr. Levy's resignation and stalled peace efforts have raised Jordanian fears of a

complete breakdown on the Palestinian-Israeli track, at a standstill since the January 1997 Hebron accord. King Hussein has held separate meetings over the last few weeks with Labour leader Ehud Barak, Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon, and a top-delegation from the Shas Party, part of the ruling coalition government. Officials have said the meetings were part of Jordanian efforts to maintain continuous dialogue with "different shades of opinion in Israel."

## Iraqis given anthrax secrets by British — paper

LONDON (AFP) — The father of Iraq's biological warfare programme benefited from a three-day anthrax workshop hosted by British government scientists, the weekly Observer newspaper reported on Sunday. The embarrassing British link to Iraq's deadly anthrax programme, revealed by United Nations sources, came only days after British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook charged

## Netanyahu warns Israel will retaliate if intifada erupts

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned Sunday that Israel would retaliate against any resumption of an "intifada" following warnings by Palestinian President Yasser Arafat of a new uprising. "Threats of violence are very serious and Israel will issue a tough response if the Palestinians are violent or issue threats to violence," Mr. Netanyahu told a cabinet meeting. "Israel will not agree to

negotiate in the peace process under the threat of violence," Mr. Netanyahu added, his office said. Mr. Arafat warned last week he would launch a new intifada if the peace process remained deadlocked. "We are ready to return to where we left off and restart the seven years of intifada," he said, referring to the 1987-1993 uprising against Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories. Mr. Arafat was speaking

before he and Mr. Netanyahu held separate meetings in Washington last week with U.S. President Bill Clinton. Mr. Clinton presented both sides with measures aimed at building confidence before launching negotiations on a final Israeli-Palestinian settlement. But Mr. Arafat made clear that Mr. Netanyahu had not come close to meeting his (Continued on page 7)



## Algeria says 20 killed in latest attack

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian security forces said on Sunday that 20 people had been killed and four wounded overnight in Tiaaret province — the latest massacre in Algeria's most bloody Holy Month of Ramadan.

Blaming the carnage on "a terrorist group" and using the usual term for victims having their throats cut, the sources in a statement on the official news agency APS said the 20 were slaughtered on "the road from Frenda-Haouch Mecharef," in Tiaaret province.

The province is next to that of Relizane, scene of massacres at the start of Ramadan, including 78 people whom authorities said were killed as the Muslim Holy Month started on Dec. 30.

Up to 1,100 civilians — mostly poor people living in isolated villages — have been gruesomely murdered in attacks blamed by officials on Islamist rebels, most had their throats cut, others were hacked

to death and others were burnt alive.

The rebels, particularly those of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), see Ramadan as especially propitious for the struggle they have waged for six years to try to topple the authorities.

Tiaaret town lies some 230 kilometres southwest of Algiers while Frenda is about 40 kilometres from Tiaaret.

As an intense manhunt was mounted for the Frenda killers, interior minister Mustapha Benmansour visited the slaughter site.

"On the spot, he asked about how the people affected by this ignoble terrorist act were being cared for, comforted families of the victims and held a lengthy discussion with representatives of the local people," APS said.

The minister earlier this month paid a similar visit to a village in Bouira province and attended the funerals of 11 people, killed by having their

throats slit or being hacked to death.

The next day, Mr. Benmansour was in the village of Sidi Hamed, some 30 kilometres south of Algiers, comforting survivors of the most deadly attack reported by the authorities — 103 people slaughtered, 70 wounded.

Since that announcement, which stunned Algeria and brought intense international attention on the country, Algerian officials have announced a series of fatal bomb blasts.

According to press reports, the bombs both in the capital and in nearby towns have killed up to a score of people, including some planting the devices. Other bombs have been found and defused.

despite the lack of official announcements on other massacres or of operations against the rebels, Algerian newspapers have kept up a daily diet of horrific reports of killings,

including live infants being dismembered before the eyes of their parents.

Newspapers on Sunday said 70 people had been killed in the past few days including more than 40 rebels and 11 villagers killed overnight Friday-Saturday in Kaid Ben Larbi village in Sidi Bel Abbes province, some 400 kilometres west of Algiers. There has been no official confirmation.

In a series of bombings, a device was tossed into the home of a "patriot" in Oued Sly area in Chlef, killing his 20-year-old daughter and wounding another daughter overnight Thursday-Friday, said Liberte.

Another bomb exploded at a cafe in Bougara near the garrison town of Blida, 50 kilometres south of Algiers, killing three people and wounding five, said La Tribune, while El Watan said a bomb killed three in the eastern city of Setif on Friday night and wounded 21.



SYRIAN MUFTI AND STUDENTS: Sheikh Ahmed Keftaro (C), Syria's grand mufti, Sunday sits with students of various nationalities at his school for Islamic Studies in Damascus. Sheikh Keftaro, 85, established his school in 1975. There are currently 100 students of 56 nationalities, mainly from states of the former Soviet Union and eastern Europe, at the school. Sheikh Keftaro is known for his rejection of normalisation of ties with Israel (Reuters photo)

## Iran regrets Algeria's attitude towards foreign efforts to end massacres

TEHRAN (R) — Iran's foreign minister said on Sunday he was dismayed that Algeria doubted the sincerity of European and Iranian efforts to end recent massacres in the north African country.

"The Iranian foreign minister, Kamal Kharrazi, on Sunday expressed dismay at the way the Algerian officials have reacted to attempts by the European Union and Iran... to stop the ongoing, suspicious carnage of people in Algeria," the official Iranian news agency IRNA said.

Mr. Kharrazi said the global community, especially Muslims, had been moved by the massacres and was trying to stop the violence, which has claimed 1,200 lives since the Islamic — Holy — Month — of Ramadan began on Dec. 30.

"He added that unfortunately

the Algerian government has interpreted such humanitarian efforts as 'meddling in the internal affairs of Algeria,' accusing others of supporting the yet unknown perpetrators of these criminal acts," IRNA said.

Algeria's Prime Minister Ahmad Ouyahia on Thursday singled out Iran as being among those contributing to "terrorism" striking his country.

Iran has called on the international community and Muslim groups to try to end the killings. Algeria has dismissed Iranian offers to mediate in the conflict.

Mr. Ouyahia, who held talks last week with an EU delegation, also criticised European countries, including Britain, which he said allowed radical — Algerian groups to operate with impunity, contributing directly to "terrorism."

"Kharrazi stressed that the reaction of the Algerian officials to the issue only adds to the doubt and pessimism of world peoples," IRNA said.

The Algerian government accuses Islamist rebels of being behind the violence. International human rights groups say government forces are to blame for some massacres.

Western estimates and human rights groups say between 65,000 and 80,000 people have died in Algeria's violence since 1992, when the authorities cancelled a general election in which Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

The government says more than 26,000 civilians and security forces died in that time but it has not given the number of Islamist rebels killed in the conflict.

## Iranian opposition protests at arrest of journalist

TEHRAN (AFP) — The liberal Islamist opposition in Iran protested on Sunday against the arrest last month of a left-leaning journalist.

Akbar Ghanji, an official with monthly literary magazine Rahe-No review (New Way) and a former employee of the literary review Kian, has been held since Dec. 6 with no explanation from the authorities, according to the opposition.

Around 40 people, mainly members of the Freedom Movement of Iran (FMI), signed a petition against the arrest and demanded that Mr. Ghanji be given legal representation.

The petition said that Mr. Ghanji was probably arrested for a speech he made in the southern city of Shiraz.

Mr. Ghanji's wife recently sent a letter to Iranian President Mohammad Khatami asking him to intervene personally to free her husband.

Founded in the 1960s, the FMI now represents the liberal and Islamist opposition in Iran and is tolerated by the authorities but not officially recognised.

## Report warns of fallout of Turkey mafia scandal

ANKARA (AFP) — A scandal linking the Turkish security forces and mafia groups could have serious ramifications outside the country, according to an official report cited by the Turkish press Sunday.

The report, presented to Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz, claims that casinos built in Azerbaijan and in Turkmenistan were funded by the Turkish state, the Radikal daily said.

According to the newspaper, Azerbaijan President Geidar Aliyev agreed to have a casino built in the former Soviet republic to pay off a \$6 million debt incurred by his son, Ilhan Aliyev.

Mr. Aliyev allegedly owed

the money to Omer Lutfi Topal, a gambling mogul who built the casinos in the two republics. Topal was mysteriously killed in July 1996 in Istanbul.

In Ashkabad, Turkmenistan's capital, Topal built three hotels-casinos also using Turkish taxpayers' money, Radikal reported.

The state-mafia scandal broke out in November 1996 following a road accident in the western town of Susurluk in which a mafia leader and a police chief were killed and a politician, Sedar Bucak, was injured while travelling in the same car.

The three men's presence in the same vehicle revealed the existence of covert relations

between the police, the Turkish mafia and certain politicians.

Mr. Bucak was an MP from former Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's conservative True Path Party. His parliamentary immunity was lifted last month to allow an investigation.

Last month, Mr. Yilmaz ordered an investigation, led by Inspector Kutlu Savas, into the infiltration of the mafia and ultra-nationalist groups in state institutions.

In his report, cited by Radikal, Mr. Savas underlined the role of the mafia leader and former right-wing militant, Abdullah Carli, in the murder of Topal.

The report also confirmed

allegations that ultra-nationalist groups were trained by the security forces and had been authorised to kill on behalf of the state.

The groups were allegedly contracted to murder Kurdish businessmen suspected of funding the separatist rebels of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK).

An operation to murder Abdullah Ocalan, the PKK leader, in Syria was also set up by these groups, the report said.

All these covert operations were part of the state's "battle against terrorism in the interests of the state," it added.

## Qatari company fires all 72 Egyptian staff

DOHA (AP) — Qatar's state-run telecommunications company fired all 72 of its Egyptian staff Sunday and gave them a week to leave the country, Egypt's ambassador said.

The move deepened a two-month row between Qatar and Egypt and brought the total of Egyptians fired from the public sector in the past fortnight to about 250.

Egypt's ambassador to Qatar, Mohammad Minessy, told the Associated Press that the Qatar Public Telecommunications Corp., or QTEL, gave termination notices to its 72 Egyptian staffers and informed them that they had to leave the country by Feb. 2.

About 10 days ago, Qatar's interior ministry fired at least 152 Egyptians and its defence min-

istry fired about 20 others.

"So far, 250 Egyptians have lost their jobs in Qatar," Mr. Minessy said.

Egyptian diplomats say that if relations do not improve, they expect the rest of the 5,000 Egyptians working in Qatar's public sector to be fired by summer. There are about 25,000 Egyptians working in Qatar, a tiny Gulf state rich in oil and gas.

"The QTEL workers fired today were mostly technicians, but there were also four engineers and an accountant among them," said Mr. Minessy. "There is no longer any Egyptian national in QTEL," he said.

Mr. Minessy said he had cancelled the embassy reception he holds every year to mark the Muslim feast of Eid Al Fitr "in solidarity with the fired Egyptians."

Eid Al Fitr, which marks the end of the Holy Month of Ramadan during which Muslims fast from dawn to dusk, will be celebrated on Wednesday or Thursday in Qatar.

The ambassador said that the feast's holiday made it very difficult for the workers to leave.

"With such short notice, how can they get their children out of school, collect their education reports and wrap up their other business?" Mr. Minessy asked.

There was no official comment from Qatar.

Egyptian-Qatari ties soured in November after Egypt joined several Arab countries in boycotting the Middle East and North Africa economic conference that was held in Doha.

President Hosni Mubarak was reported to have reconciled with the Qatari emir, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, when King Fahd of Saudi Arabia brought them together in Riyadh last month.

But tension revived quickly, with Egypt imposing visas on Qatari visitors and a Qatari newspaper publishing a cartoon that mocked Egypt's grand Sheikh of Al Azhar, one of the Muslim world's most prominent scholars, for meeting Israel's chief rabbi.

Qatar has an estimated population of 600,000, but only 180,000 people are citizens. The majority of residents are foreign workers.

## Iraq says some problems with Iran still to be ironed out

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Al Sahhaf said Saturday after a week-long visit to Iran that some issues between the two countries would remain "in suspense."

"Upcoming meetings of the joint [Iraqi-Iranian] commissions will be the time to settle some matters in suspense," he told Iraqi television.

Mr. Sahhaf had agreed with Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi during the visit to set up two committees on humanitarian affairs, trade and pilgrims.

The Iraqi foreign minister said that progress had been made "in some areas."

"The joint committees began their tasks properly and progress

has been made on some issues, especially on Iraqi prisoners of war still held in Iran," Mr. Sahhaf said.

He added that they had "agreed to hold periodic meetings at the foreign ministerial level" to settle outstanding questions.

Mr. Sahhaf's discussions with his Iranian counterpart were dominated by the prisoners of war issue, compensation for the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, and Iraqi aircraft sent to Iran just after the beginning of the 1991 Gulf war, sources in Tehran said.

Mr. Kharrazi recently said that Iraq was trying to win Iran's support to get the U.N. embargo on Iraq lifted. The embargo was imposed on Baghdad after it

invaded Kuwait in 1990.

Baghdad says it has released all Iranian war prisoners, but Tehran says several thousand of its nationals are still in Iraqi prisons.

Iraq, meanwhile, demands that Iran return its planes.

But Iran has said that the return of Iraqi civilian aircraft is dependent on the lifting of the U.N. embargo against Iraq.

They also disagree on the number of Iraqi aircraft on Iranian soil.

Baghdad maintains that it has 148 planes, 33 of which are civilian, there, while Tehran says that it has only 22 Iraqi aircraft.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

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#### PROGRAMME TWO

14:00 ..... Holy Koran  
14:10 ..... Hammerman  
14:30 ..... French Programmes  
16:15 ..... Prayers  
16:30 ..... Believe and Behave  
17:00 ..... Riding High  
17:30 ..... The Animal Show  
18:00 ..... Neighbours  
18:30 ..... News Headlines  
18:35 ..... Hope and Gloria  
19:00 ..... News in French  
19:15 ..... Ramadan Talks  
19:35 ..... The Health Show  
20:01 ..... Over a Cup of Tea  
20:30 ..... Country Music  
21:10 ..... Highlander  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... Emergency Room  
23:15 ..... Cosmos  
23:59 ..... Islam in a changing World

#### PRAYER TIMES

05:09 ..... Fajr  
06:29 ..... (Sunrise) Duha  
11:48 ..... Dhuhur  
14:43 ..... 'Asr  
17:07 ..... Maghreb  
18:27 ..... 'Isha

#### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Sweifeh, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel.

632785.  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.  
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622566  
Anglican Church Tel. 652826.  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.  
Armenian International Church Tel. 865897

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 834328.  
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 688404  
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.  
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295  
English-speaking  
Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

#### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology  
Cold weather conditions will prevail and skies cloudy to partly cloudy. Intermittent showers are expected and winds northwesterly

moderate. In Aqaba, skies will be partly cloudy, winds northerly moderate, and seas calm.

Min/Max. temp.  
Amman ..... 04/09  
Aqaba ..... 09/19  
Deserts ..... 03/11  
Jordan Valley ..... 10/17

Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 08, Aqaba 20 Humidity readings: Amman 85 per cent. Aqaba 38 per cent.

#### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY  
AMMAN:  
Dr. Khalil Jbali ..... 740740  
Dr. Walid Al Masri ..... 675485  
Dr. Youssef Rashid ..... 375792  
Dr. Jum'a Abu Dhabi ..... 758848  
Firas pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdows pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Asema pharmacy ..... 637055  
Nairoukh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy ..... 637660  
Najib pharmacy ..... 847632

#### IRBID:

Dr. Ahmad Qanu ..... 281434

Al Quds pharmacy ..... (---)

ZARQA:  
Dr. Walid Halaseh ..... 982799  
Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 985417

#### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 845845  
Al-Muasher Hospital ..... 667279  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 666126/37  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 664164/6  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen ..... 777101/3  
Al-Bashir ..... 775111/26  
Army, Marka ..... 891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 602240/50  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery ..... 865199

ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... (09)900560  
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)986732  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital ..... (09)990990

IRBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital ..... (02)755555  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... (02)722775  
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital ..... (02)722775

#### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Luzmila ..... 630195  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khalidi Maternity ..... 64281/6  
Akileh Maternity ..... 64341/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani ..... 607071  
Shmeisani Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 845845  
Al-Muasher Hospital ..... 667279  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 666126/37  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 664164/6  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen ..... 777101/3  
Al-Bashir ..... 775111/26  
Army, Marka ..... 891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 602240/50  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery ..... 865199

#### FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (44)53200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone 44 (52700).

#### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
07:15 ..... Sana'a (RJ)  
08:25 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
08:35 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
09:15 ..... New Delhi (RJ)  
09:50 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:05 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
16:20 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
16:25 ..... London (RJ)  
16:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
18:05 ..... Kuwait (RJ)  
18:35 ..... Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)  
22:05 Kuala Lumpur, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
23:15 ..... Jakarta, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
00:45 Bangkok, Jakarta, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
01:00 ..... Jeddah (add) (RJ)

Other Flights  
04:15 ..... London (BA)  
09:15 ..... Cairo (MS)  
09:30 ..... Al 'Arish (PF)  
12:00 ..... Khartoum (SD)  
13:25 ..... Bahrain (GF)  
14:30 ..... Doha (QR)  
15:05 ..... Vienna (OS)  
16:00 ..... Dubai (EK)  
18:00 ..... Istanbul (SD)  
20:00 ..... Tel Aviv (LY)  
21:10 ..... Paris, Damascus (AF)  
22:30 ..... Athens (OA)  
01:25 ..... Amsterdam (KL)

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

#### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
06:20 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
11:00 ..... Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)  
11:25 ..... Frankfurt, London (RJ)  
12:05 ..... Kuwait (RJ)

Other Flights  
06:00 ..... Istanbul (TK)  
08:25 ..... London (BA)  
10:30 ..... Cairo (MS)  
13:20 ..... Istanbul (SD)  
14:15 ..... Bahrain (GF)  
15:50 ..... Doha (QR)  
15:50 ..... Vienna (OS)  
17:00 ..... Damascus, Dubai (EK)  
19:00 ..... Khartoum (SD)  
21:20 ..... Tel Aviv (LY)  
23:53 ..... Damascus, Paris (AF)  
02:25 ..... Amsterdam (KL)  
03:00 ..... Athens (OA)

Royal Wings (RW)  
06:05 ..... Tel Aviv (RW)  
07:25 ..... Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
07:15 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)  
09:50 ..... Aqaba (RW)  
11:10 ..... Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
12:00 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)  
21:20 ..... Aqaba (RW)  
22:50 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

#### DEPARTURES

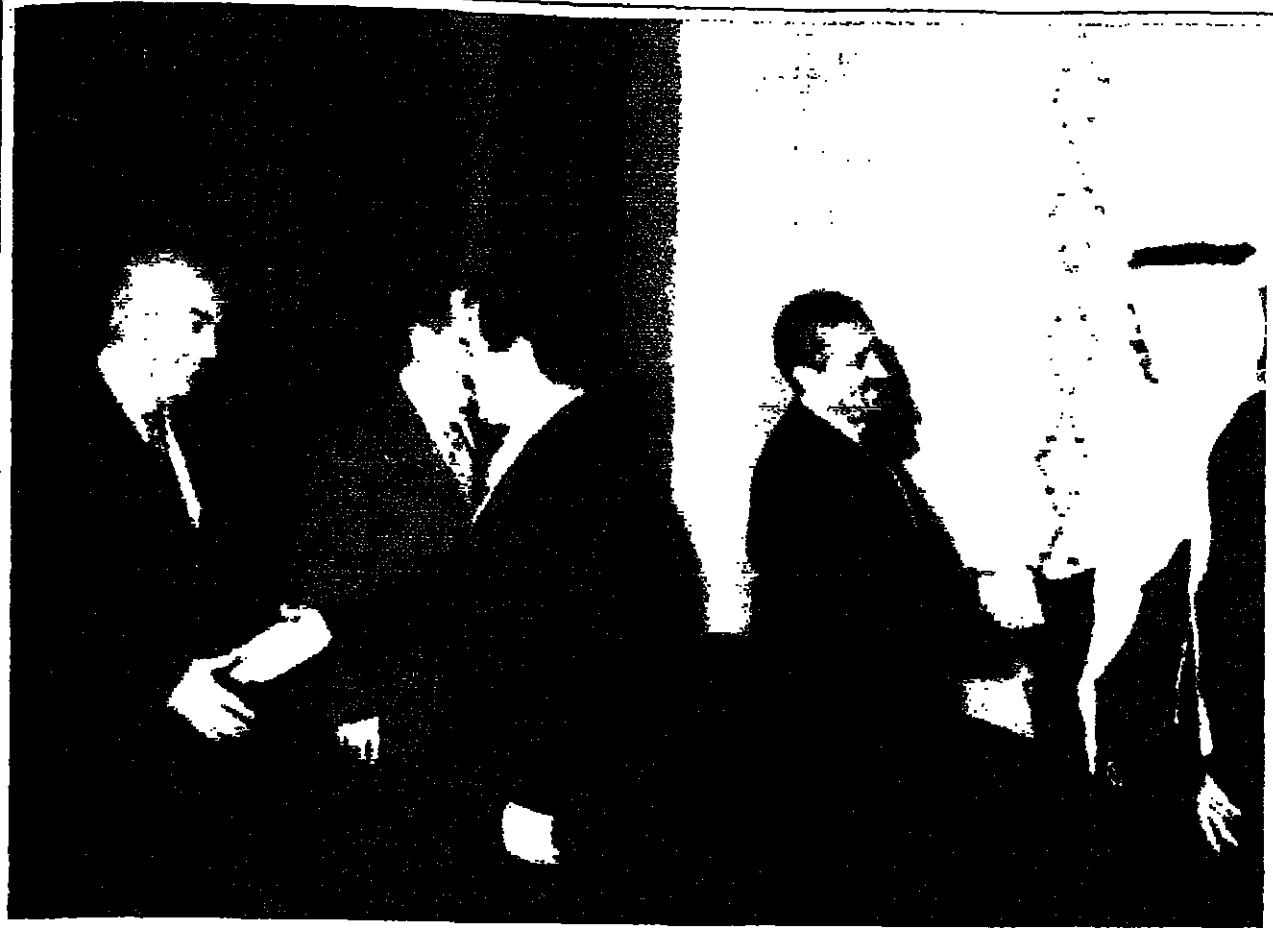
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
06:20 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
11:00 ..... Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)  
11:25 ..... Frankfurt, London (RJ)  
12:05 ..... Kuwait (RJ)

Other Flights  
06:00 ..... Istanbul (TK)  
08:25 ..... London (BA)  
10:30 ..... Cairo (MS)  
13:20 ..... Istanbul (SD)  
14:15 ..... Bahrain (GF)  
15:50 ..... Doha (QR)  
15:50 ..... Vienna (OS)  
17:00 ..... Damascus, Dubai (EK)  
19:00 ..... Khartoum (SD)  
21:20 ..... Tel Aviv (LY)  
23:53 ..... Damascus, Paris (AF)  
02:25 ..... Amsterdam (KL)  
03:00 ..... Athens (OA)

Royal Wings (RW)  
06:05 ..... Tel Aviv (RW)  
07:25 ..... Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
07:15 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)  
09:50 ..... Aqaba (RW)  
11:10 ..... Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
12:00 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)  
21:20 ..... Aqaba (RW)  
22:50 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

#### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
06:20 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
11:00 ..... Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)  
11:25 ..... Frankfurt, London (RJ)  
12:05 ..... Kuwait (RJ)



ENSOUR HOSTS IFTAR: Deputy Prime Minister for Services and Minister of Administrative Development Abdullah Ensour, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali's delegate, Sunday hosts an iftar banquet for members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament at Al Hussein Sports City. Dr. Ensour and the invitees performed the Maghreb prayers (Petra photo)

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Regent hosts iftar for officers

AMMAN (Petra) — HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Sunday hosted an iftar banquet for Armed Forces, civil defence and public security officers at the Royal Artillery Academy Club. Prince Hassan conveyed His Majesty King Hussein's greetings to the attendees.

### Regent extends condolences to Amin's family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Sunday paid a visit to former Ministry of Information Secretary General Mohammad Amin's home and conveyed condolences to the bereaved family.

### NAF distributes assistance

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Aid Fund (NAF) on Sunday distributed financial assistance to hundreds of families in Mafrag, Madaba, Deiban and Southern Shuneh. NAF Director General Adel Shamaileh said thousands of Jordanians will benefit from the fund's aid programme during the Holy Month of Ramadan.

## what's going on

### FILM

\* French film "Traffic" at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Weibdeh at 8:30 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

\* Display of Noor Al-Husseini Foundation (NAF) products at the NAF Jordan Design and Trade Centre, off Wadi Sagra Street (Tel. 699141/2), until Jan. 31 (8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.).

\* Installation by Jordanian artist Ali Jabri (until Jan. 27). Also displaying contemporary Arab artist exhibition (until Jan. 27) at Darat Al Furun, Jabal Weibdeh (Tel. 643251).

\* Works by about a hundred artists from Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Lebanon and Jordan at Hammurabi Art Gallery, Gardens Street, until Feb. 20 (Tel. 5536098).

## Zarqa police announce arrest of four in connection with murder

ZARQA (Petra) — Zarqa police Sunday announced that they solved the murder of a non-Jordanian worker whose body was found on Jan. 19 in an old deserted well.

Zarqa Police Department Chief Colonel Mashour Awaisheh told a press conference that four people, including three Egyptians and a Jordanian taxi driver, were involved in the crime.

Col. Awaisheh said that after a bedouin had reported blood stains nearby, the police traced the blood to an old well 15 metres deep.

The police climbed down the well to investigate and retrieved the body of a 26-year-old man whose head was covered by a kufieh (head covering), with which the man was strangled, according to Col. Awaisheh.

The coroner who examined the body reported

that the man had been beaten on the face, chest, hands and back, and that the death occurred 48 hours earlier by strangulation.

It took the police 24 hours to identify the victim as a worker who had been employed at Wadi Al Ish farm for four years. Col. Awaisheh said. However, co-workers and acquaintances claimed they knew nothing about his disappearance, he added.

The victim's fellow workers fell under suspicion when it was found that the area where the murder took place was known to very few people, including these workers. Col. Awaisheh stated. Under repeated interrogation, the three Egyptian suspects admitted their responsibility for the murder, saying that they killed the man in complicity with a Jordanian taxi driver because he

wanted to report them to the police about a love affair they had with a woman, he said.

The three suspects said they invited him to an iftar, after which they attacked and strangled him with a kufieh, then carried him in the taxi to the old well, the police officer stated.

The suspects took the victim out, but found that he was still alive, whereupon they beat him with sticks and rocks, smashing his skull and neck, and strangled him before dumping his body in the well, according to Col. Awaisheh.

Later, they burned their blood-stained clothes to conceal the murder, he said, adding that the police found stains of the victim's blood in the taxi's trunk.

The four suspects have been referred to court for trial.

## Civil aviation delegation to Israel to discuss air transport agreement

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation led by Captain Jasser Ziyad, director general of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), Sunday left for Tel Aviv on an official two-day visit to revise an air transport agreement between Israel and Jordan.

In a statement before departure, Capt. Ziyad said that under the terms of the agreement, the two sides should revise the agreement's provisions every six months to accommodate developments in air transport.

The last revision by the two sides resulted in increasing the number of flights between Israel and Jordan by 60 per cent, according to Capt. Ziyad. He expressed hope that the two sides would reach agreement on increasing

the number of flights between Amman and Tel Aviv from six to 10 per week and removing restrictions imposed by the Israeli authorities on flights between Haifa and Amman so that the number of flights can be increased between the two destinations. Flights are currently conducted between Amman and Haifa via the Marka Airport and the Queen Alia International Airport.

Capt. Ziyad said he will also discuss lifting restrictions on occupancy rates with the Israeli authorities with the hope of doubling it to 450 per week.

Royal Wings, a subsidiary of Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national air carrier, has been making the flights between

Amman and Tel Aviv. But now having received a second 50-seat passenger plane, Royal Wings can boost its flights not only to Israel, but other destinations in the region, Royal Wings sources have said.

According to Capt. Ziyad, his discussion with the Israelis will include a reassessment of the joint Jordanian-Israeli operation of Aqaba Airport, which started on a trial basis last November and ends on March 11, 1998. He said further steps regarding joint operation will be taken in light of the assessment.

The Jordanian delegation also includes Royal Wings Director Ahd Quntar, as well as three other officials.

## Jordan, Iran to discuss exchange of agricultural expertise

AMMAN (Petra) — Agricultural specialists from Jordan and Iran will hold a meeting at the Ministry of Agriculture soon to discuss prospects for the exchange of expertise between the two countries, according to Minister of Agriculture Mijhem Khreisha.

The minister made the announcement following a meeting last week with Iranian Ambassador to Jordan Mohammad Ali Subhani, during which they reviewed Jordanian-Iranian cooperation

in general and in agriculture in particular.

Mr. Khreisha told the ambassador that bilateral relations have witnessed progressive development, and he underlined Jordan's keenness on promoting economic and agricultural relations as well as the exchange of know-how and agricultural equipment with Tehran.

The minister noted that Jordan has made major achievements in the agricultural sector and has acquired vast experience in agricul-

tural research and extension services.

Mr. Subhani voiced appreciation of Jordan's desire to promote Jordanian-Iranian cooperation in agriculture and carry out joint projects.

According to Ministry of Agriculture sources, two Iranian specialists in tree planting have visited Jordan recently and familiarised themselves with the Jordan's achievements in planting olive trees to produce olive oil as part of developing the Kingdom's higher lands.

## Senate approves 1998 budget

By Fairouz Abu-Ghazaleh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Upper House of Parliament on Sunday unanimously approved this year's draft budget, but only after some senators expressed their concerns over rising unemployment and poverty.

The JD1.95 billion budget, which is 5.7 per cent higher than last year's, envisages total expenditures of JD1.87 billion and a deficit of JD37 million.

Many of the 12 senators who took the floor during yesterday's session urged the government to exert a greater effort to fight escalating unemployment and poverty and increase the salaries of civil and military employees as well as the wages of pensioners. They also discussed privatisation and ways of luring foreign investments into the country.

Senator Thouqan Hindawi questioned the government on the strategies it planned to implement to reduce poverty.

"Does the House's Finance Committee believe

that allocating JD30 million of the budget constitute the beginning of a solid base to address this problem, which we believe is a time bomb?" he asked.

Dr. Hindawi was referring to official figures indicating that 22 per cent of the Kingdom's population lives in conditions of abject poverty.

Replying on behalf of the government, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali told the senators that "unemployment and poverty are problems of high concern to the government. We have finalised the social security package for the coming years and we are committed to its implementation."

"But it alone cannot solve all the problems. That is why the government is working on increasing foreign investments and our exports in order to create new jobs."

Senator Dawoud Suleiman addressed this issue, saying the government has to revise its laws to encourage investments. "Even though the govern-

ment is revising and activating [investment] laws... the bureaucratic system is limiting Jordan's appeal to foreign investors," he said.

Dr. Majali admitted that the country needs to improve the investment climate to attract more investors. "We agree that modernising legislation and opening the door for investments are not on their own sufficient to attract the required cash flow," Dr. Majali said, "unless all [these steps] are tied to improving the investment climate, increasing profit margins and reducing administrative restrictions and bureaucratic measures."

As to Jordan's trade relations, the prime minister noted that the Kingdom's economic relations with Arab countries are a "clear" priority, especially with the Palestinians, as well as Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Syria.

"There is no need for me to reiterate the benefits of these relationships under the current circumstances... but we have to remember

that our international relations are important as well," Dr. Majali said. "We in Jordan do not shoulder the responsibility of the deterioration of joint Arab action."

Dr. Majali briefly pointed to Jordan's water problems, especially the illegal use of water resources, water leakage and lack of infrastructure such as dams.

The prime minister stressed the government's commitment to fight bureaucracy and increase transparency to upgrade the performance of the administration.

"It is time for administrative reform to be complemented by steady strides toward decentralisation and facilitation of decision-making procedures."

Last week, after a tough five-day debate, the Lower House approved the draft budget by a sizeable majority — 59 out of the 74 deputies present during the session.

The budget will become law as soon as it is endorsed by His Majesty King Hussein.

## Government raises fuel prices for consumers, commissions for distributors

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government announced Sunday that it has hiked the prices of fuel for consumers and raised the margin of commission paid to the fuel distributors and petrol stations.

The decision, effective as of Feb. 1, 1998, stipulates that the commission which petrol stations used to charge for selling kerosene, diesel oil and petrol will be hiked by one fils per litre and each litre sold to the consumer will be increased by one

fils each. Distributors transporting diesel fuel and other products to homes will charge the consumers three fils instead of the present one fils for every litre.

The commission that gas distributors used to charge for every gas cylinder from the refinery was raised by 80 fils, the same increase in cost to the consumer, according to the announcement. Thus a gas cylinder sold to the public in the govern-

ment of Amman, Balqa, Irbid, Jerash, Mafrag, Madaba, and Ajloun will be sold for JD2.080, up from JD2, while the price in the governorates of Karak, Tafleh, Ma'an, and Aqaba will be JD2.130.

In its statement, the government said the decision was taken after a thorough study by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources in response to complaints by petrol stations and fuel distributors about

their commission. It also followed threats earlier this month by the petrol stations and gas cylinder distributors association to go on strike if their demands were not met. The decision to strike was made by approximately 250 petrol stations and 900 gas cylinder distributors to pressure the government to increase the commission they receive from the refinery.

## Three serving 5-year prison terms plead not guilty to attempted murder

By Rana Hussein  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Three men serving five-year prison terms for plotting to carry out extremist attacks pleaded not guilty Sunday to attempted murder at the opening of their trial at the Criminal Court.

Tha'er Yousef, 27, Shadi Jawdat, 21, and Ibrahim Mohammad Abdul Thaher Zein Al Abedeine, 29, are all charged with the attempted murder of Sergeant Mohammad Ali of the General Intelligence Department (GID) during an armed assault on the GID building in Baqa'a on Dec. 26, 1994.

Tha'er Yousef and Shadi Jawdat are also charged with destroying government property and possessing an unlicensed weapon.

The three defendants were part of a group of five men found guilty by

the State Security Court military tribunal in November 1996 of attacking the GID building.

All five were sentenced to 15-year imprisonment terms, but their sentences were later commuted to five years by the Court of Cassation.

Charges pressed against them during the November 1996 trial included assault with the intent to block the authorities from carrying out constitutional duties and the distribution of pamphlets slandering to His Majesty King Hussein.

They were acquitted of the charge of slandering the King because "the pamphlets seized with them, which the prosecution had charged were slandering, had nothing written against the King."

The military prosecution charged that the men conducted the attack to avenge the arrest of Zein Al Abedeine, who the

prosecution alleged was the group leader, three days earlier and to avenge the State Security Court's sentencing on Dec. 24, 1996, of 11 Islamists known as the "Arab Afghan" to death and seven more to imprisonment.

Defence Attorney Mohammad Dweik said his clients' case was transferred from the Court of First Instance in Salt to the Criminal Court "because of some amendments to the Jordanian Penal Code."

"This means that my clients could receive a higher sentence than the one they have already received," he told the Jordan Times following the conclusion of Sunday's session.

If convicted by the Criminal Court on the attempted murder charges, the three men, who have already served three years in prison,

could be sentenced to 15-year imprisonment terms, including the period they have already spent in detention.

According to the charge sheet, the suspects started their activities in April 1994 and plotted to carry out extremist attacks against tourists and security departments in the Kingdom and armed assaults in the West Bank.

On the eve of the attack, the first and second defendants, Tha'er Ghanem and Shadi Taha, headed to the GID after night prayers, showered the GID building with bullets from machine guns, injuring one officer, and fled the scene, the charge sheet said.

The court tribunal, headed by Judge Abdul Hamid Sa'ad and including Judges Ahmad Khatib and Yassin Abdullat, adjourned the trial to Feb. 8 to begin hearing the prosecution witnesses.

## Badran begins tour of refugee camps by inspecting conditions at Al Hussein Camp

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Department of Palestinian Affairs will try to obtain funds from external donor organisations to finance infrastructure projects in the Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan, according to department Director Ibrahim Badran.

Speaking to representatives of Al Hussein Refugee Camp during an inspection tour of the area, Mr. Badran promised to seek help from donors, provided carefully studied plans for projects have been made.

He said the camp is in need of income-generating projects to help improve the living condi-

tions of the refugees.

Mr. Badran added that he will make tours of the Kingdom's 12 other refugee camps to study residents' requests and their general conditions.

The refugees in the camp complained to Mr. Badran about water shortages, health issues and insufficient medical services.

He promised that his department would make contacts with the concerned departments to help solve these problems.

The department director met with a committee in charge of improving conditions in the camp and

with the camp's youth committee, as well as the women's federation branch of the camp. Mr. Badran urged them not to depend on the government alone for funds to finance their projects, which he said can help cut unemployment and reduce poverty.

Through the Department of Palestinian Affairs, Jordan spends more than \$300 million per year on social, health, educational and other services for the refugees living in Jordan, according to department sources.

The refugees in Jordan constitute some 40 per cent of the total number

living in Arab host states, as well as the Palestinian territories.

In the meetings, Mr. Badran learnt from the camp's director about the shortage of medicines and insufficient number of doctors at the health centre, which is run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

He also heard complaints about rainwater and sewage-related problems, especially in the winter season. The camp's youth centre requested that the Ministry of Youth provide financial support for its activities.



## Mainstream loyalists, republicans denounce killings in N. Ireland

BELFAST (AFP) — Mainstream loyalist and republican leaders in Northern Ireland Sunday denounced the series of sectarian attacks that have left eight Catholics and two Protestants dead here since Christmas.

David Trimble, leader of the largest party in the British-ruled province, the pro-British Ulster Unionist Party (UUP), told BBC radio he was "appalled" by the killings, which are threatening the province's fragile peace process.

"We are appalled at this series of outrages committed by loyalists. It is madness, they are actually playing the republican game," he said.

So-called loyalist paramilitaries, loyal to the links between Northern Ireland and Britain, have been behind most of the killings that began on Dec. 27 when a leading loyalist was shot dead in prison by two republicans.

Sunday the number two of Sinn Féin, the legal political wing of the banned Irish Republican Army, denounced the killings and warned of rising anger in the Catholic community.

Speaking to the BBC Sinn Féin deputy leader Martin McGuinness blasted the "slaughter of the innocent" and warned that "within the nationalist community there is anger and resentment."

The vicious cycle of killings in Northern Ireland showed no sign of letting up Sunday, as sectarian shoot-

ings continued. In the latest incidents, a man was shot and wounded by Protestant paramilitary gunmen in a Catholic area of County Armagh, hours after a Catholic taxi driver was shot dead in Belfast.

The Sunday shooting was claimed in a call to the Belfast media by the Loyalist Volunteer Force (LVF), the group that has claimed most of the killings.

At the same time, a Catholic nationalist splinter group was suspected of being behind a bomb attack

on a nightclub in the town of Enniskillen in the west of Northern Ireland. Nobody was injured in the blast.

The body of the Catholic taxi driver was meanwhile found dead after he was called out by a group of men, who shot him in the head and dumped him on a country road in Catholic west Belfast, police said.

A police officer who was called to the scene said the killing was "clearly a sectarian murder."

The Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF), the main Protestant militia, last week

admitted an accusation by the police chief of the British ruled province that it had been involved in the recent murders of three Catholics.

The UFF pledged to renew its ceasefire, but not before its admission of its guilt had pressured politicians in London and Dublin to throw its political representatives in the UDP out of the province which are due to resume in London Monday.

Martin McGuinness Sunday refused to demand that the UDP be thrown out of the talks saying it was a "matter for the two governments" to deal with.

He put the blame meanwhile on unionist/loyalist intransigence.

"This peace process is in a deep crisis because from within the talks unionist intransigence has appeared, and from outside, that strategy has been supported by loyalist death squads."

"Sinn Féin will stay in the talks," he said.

For his part, Mr. Trimble also refused to call for the exclusion of the UDP saying it was up to British Northern Ireland Secretary Marjorie (Mo) Mowlam.

"That is a clear breach of the Mitchell principles," of non-violence, espoused by talks chairman Senator George Mitchell, Mr. Trimble said.

The UUP would be asking Ms. Mowlam "Do the Mitchell principles mean anything anymore?" he said.

### London marchers remember Bloody Sunday's dead

LONDON (AFP) — More than 2,000 marched Saturday in London to remember the 14 people in Northern Ireland gunned down by the British army on Bloody Sunday in 1972, organisers said Saturday.

The protest also put pressure on Prime Minister Tony Blair's Labour government to open a fresh official inquiry into the Jan. 30, 1972, massacre of unarmed Catholics in Londonderry.

"By doing this march we want to help show that justice must be done, and we want the government to deliver us that right," said Martin McGuinness, a member of Sinn Féin, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

Mr. Blair said recently in the House of Commons that he hoped to be in a position soon to make a statement on Bloody Sunday, which 16 years on remains a point of anger for Catholics who want the British-run province reunited with Ireland.

The official version of events holds that British paratroopers began shooting after being fired upon, but this is disputed even by soldiers who were there.

"We don't want compensation," said John McKinney, the brother of one of the victims, who attended Saturday's march. "We just want a result and an inquiry. We want everyone to recognise that the victims were innocent."

## Clinton scandal analysis, poll data dominate the Sunday media

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Analysis articles, in-depth reporting and poll data all relating to the sex scandal that has engulfed President Bill Clinton the past week dominate the front pages of the country's newspapers Sunday.

The Washington Post devotes the full top-half of the front page, as well as six pages on the inside, to the allegations that Mr. Clinton had sex with a 21-year-old intern earlier in his presidency, then pressured her to lie about the affair.

If true, the president could face impeachment procedures in Congress on charges of obstruction of justice.

He could also face perjury charges for earlier denying the relationship with Ms. Lewinsky while under oath when testifying in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case last weekend.

The Post includes a detailed blow-by-blow account of how the event unfolded, beginning last weekend with Mr. Clinton's deposition in the Jones case.

The New York Times has three stories about the Clinton scandal on the front page, including a report about how Hillary Rodham Clinton is leading the forces in the president's defence.

One long piece details how the current investiga-

tion began with a telephone call from Pentagon employee Linda Tripp to independent counsellor Kenneth Starr's office.

Ms. Tripp had secretly recorded co-worker and former White House intern Monica Lewinsky talking about her affair with Mr. Clinton, and how the president and adviser Vernon Jordan pressured her to deny it in a deposition.

"The 90-minute telephone call became the catalyst for the most serious White House crisis in a generation," the article states.

The Los Angeles Times emphasises a newspaper poll showing how the president's popularity has begun to sag due to the scandal, noting that 44 per cent of the people they surveyed believe that Mr. Clinton did have an affair with Ms. Lewinsky.

According to their poll 61 per cent believe that Mr. Clinton should be impeached if he pressured Ms. Lewinsky to deny the affair.

The Times also has an article about how the rest of the world is looking at the affair, noting that many believe it is an event that could happen "only in America."

Since late Saturday, Cable News Network has been airing a brief segment showing Mr. Clinton hugging Ms. Lewinsky in

an outdoor ceremony the day after he was reelected to office in November 1996. The president is seen from behind, while Ms. Lewinsky is clearly visible.

Time magazine, however, has a clear photo of both Mr. Clinton and Ms. Lewinsky together that will run on the magazine's cover Monday.

CNN reports a gloomy atmosphere within the White House.

Several of the president's closest friends, according to the network, say that Mr. Clinton "almost certainly did have a sexual relationship with Lewinsky," and many of them are already preparing for Vice-President Al Gore to step into the top job.

"They consider the Mr. Clinton presidency is in deep peril," CNN noted.

Fox television news even reported that some Democrats were organising betting pools to guess the date on which Mr. Clinton will leave office.

Many analysts however note that Mr. Clinton is known for putting up a fierce fight when he is under pressure.

Mr. Clinton has little personal money, analysts on CNN noted, and will still face the Jones lawsuit and possibly others if he leaves office early.

## Security tightened in Kashmir ahead of India's Republic Day

SRINAGAR, India (AFP) — Indian troops tightened security in Kashmir Sunday, the eve of the country's Republic Day, in a bid to prevent attacks by Muslim separatist guerrillas, police said.

Police said troops took up positions on rooftops around a stadium, the venue of Monday's official festivities, and asked locals to remain in their homes until the celebrations were over.

Muslim separatist rebels opposed to Indian rule in Kashmir have in the past staged rocket and bomb attacks to disrupt functions marking Republic Day here.

A powerful Muslim separatist organisation, the All Party Freedom Conference, has announced a boycott of Monday's celebration, calling it a "black day."

More than 20,000 people have died in Muslim secessionist violence in Kashmir

since 1989, India accuses Pakistan, which administers part of the divided state, of fomenting insurgency in the northern territory.

Islamabad denies the charge but extends moral and diplomatic support to the secessionists. Police said despite tight security, suspected Muslim militants threw a grenade at a security post in Srinagar Sunday. The grenade, however, did not explode.

## Chechenya names man wanted for killing six Red Cross workers

MOSCOW (AFP) — The Russian authorities urged Russia Sunday to arrest and hand over a Chechen man wanted for the December 1996 killing of six Red Cross workers in the break-away north Caucasus republic, Interfax news agency reported.

A statement issued by Mairbek Vachagayev, a top aide to Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov, said the "vicious murder" of the six Red Cross workers in Novy Atagi was carried out by Adam Deniyev, a Chechen now living in Moscow.

Deniyev was also wanted for the slaying of seven people in the Chechen village of Avtury in 1994, the statement said.

"Deniyev is now in Moscow, where he has been accorded an office and working environment," the statement said.

"The Russian leadership has ignored repeated requests from the Chechen side, and is refusing to extradite Deniyev," it added.

No other suspects were named by Mr. Vachagayev, although a survivor of the bloodbath in Novy Atagi, Heidrun Zimmermann, said several masked gunmen were involved.

In January 1997, Mr. Zimmermann said the gunmen had entered the hospital run by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Novy Atagi on the night of Dec. 16, and shot their victims as they were sleeping in their rooms.

The gunmen shot dead five women — two Norwegian, one Spanish, one New Zealander, and one Canadian — and a Dutchman.

The ICRC promptly pulled out of the devastated republic.

According to Mr. Vachagayev, those who ordered the massacre "wanted foreign humanitarian organisations to deny assistance to Chechenya."



Mir crew commander Anatoly Solovyov (left) hugs Shuttle Endeavour Commander Terrence Wilcutt after the two ships docked (Photo by NASA TV Reuters)

## A U.S. astronaut boards Russia's Mir for last time

MOSCOW (R) — The crew of the Mir Space station Sunday welcomed their first visitors in four months and took on board the last NASA astronaut due to fly on the Russian station.

The U.S. space shuttle Endeavour docked with Mir at 20:14 GMT, 390 km above earth just west of the Ukrainian capital Kiev, in the eighth such docking between the shuttle and Mir station.

"This whole thing is touching me more than I expected, seeing the shuttle," said U.S. astronaut David Wolf, who has been aboard Mir since September and will return to earth on the shuttle this week. "It was really something at night, with the cities below."

The crew opened the final hatch linking Endeavour and Mir at 22:25 GMT, which caused a small loss of air pressure, NASA said.

"There was an error in configuration of some airlock valves in pre-launch processing at the Kennedy Space Centre that resulted in a small loss of air pressure after docking," NASA spokeswoman Ann Hutchinson said.

Viktor Blagov, Mir's deputy flight director, said the space station lost three cubic metres of air. ITAR-TASS reported. He described the incident as "regrettable but not disastrous."

As crews checked for pressure leaks before opening the hatches, Mr. Wolf joked with Endeavour astronaut Bonnie Dunbar by radio by apparently referring to the June collision between Mir and its progress cargo resupply ship.

"You know we barely felt your knocking, it was very smooth," Mr. Wolf said. "Much less impact than a Progress."

The June Progress crash halved Mir's power supply and forced the crew to seal off one of the station's seven modules.

During their time on Mir, Mr. Wolf and his two Russian colleagues, Commander Anatoly Solovyov and flight engineer Pavel Vinogradov, have succeeded in restoring Mir's power to its original level although the Spektr module is still sealed.

Recent repairs, on the energy, computer and life-support systems present the new NASA astronaut Andy Thomas, who officially moves in Sunday, with a better-functioning craft than it was when Mr. Wolf arrived in September.

"I think it will be easier for Andy than it was before," Alexander Lazutkin, Mir's former flight engineer who escaped death during the June accident, told Reuters. "This period of breakdowns on the station has passed. All the equipment that failed has been replaced with new parts."

Thomas, 47, said in a radio interview from

Endeavour Friday night that his greatest concerns were creature comforts and language problems, not the station's condition.

"I think the Russians have done a very good job stabilising the situation," Thomas said. "My concern is just learning to live and function for a long time on a day-to-day basis in conditions that at times might be difficult. There might be difficult temperatures and hard work and so on."

Thomas, who was born in Australia, has a doctorate in mechanical engineering and has flown on the shuttle once previously. He is scheduled to return to earth in late May.

After the shuttle and Mir crews met early Sunday, the sounds of a reunion party broadcast across space as astronauts ignored mission control's repeated requests for their attention.

"Thanks for coming to get me," Mr. Wolf told the American crew.

The astronauts and cosmonauts will spend most of Sunday moving 3,350 kilos of supplies and equipment through the narrow tunnel connecting their space ships.

Along with scientific equipment, Endeavour is carrying about 600 kilos of water, food, hygiene supplies, clothing, batteries and personal property for the Russian cosmonauts.

Thomas said the service's heavy weapons will be transferred to the defence ministry, the source added.

Russian Defence Council experts quoted by ITAR-TASS said 90 per cent of the Borderguards Service's current aims and tasks duplicated those of the FSB.

The unnamed experts said the merger would be in line with a new focus on intelligence and counter-intelligence operations, rather than on preparations for warfare on Russia's borders.

Mr. Yeltsin put the Borderguards Service under his personal authority in December 1993, after the dismantling of the KGB — the Soviet-era secret service.

The FSB and External Intelligence Service (SVR) were also formed out of the defunct KGB.

The Defence Council experts said another secret service — the Federal Agency for Government Communications and Information (FAPSI) — would remain a separate body, although it was previously part of the FSB system.

Russian Defence Minister Igor Sergeev said Friday that Mr. Yeltsin's ambitious plans for military reform, announced in July 1997, were being implemented, but conceded that the goal of creating a professional army by 2000 was impossible to achieve.

Mr. Sergeev said personnel in Russia's bloated and cash-strapped armed forces had been cut by 200,000 in 1997, and in a year's time the army would total 1.5 million, in line with Mr. Yeltsin's programme.

## Florida anti-Castro group claims they will land in Cuba

MIAMI, Florida (AFP) — A small group of anti-Castro activists set sail for Cuba with plans to land on the island early Sunday — the last day of Pope John Paul II's visit to the island — even though the event could spark an international incident.

The U.S. Coast Guard spent most of Saturday searching the Straits of Florida for a vessel carrying Ramon Saul Sanchez, a hard-line anti-Castro exile living in southern Florida and head of the so-called Democracy Movement.

Coast Guard spokesman Luis Diaz would not say how many Coast Guard vessels were seeking the 12-metre boat, but said that they had not alerted the Cuban Coast Guard about the exiles' plans.

The ship's landing in Cuba was supposed to be the crowning event of a day of protests against the Castro regime.

Instead, it has become a symbol of how anti-Castro hardliners are having to resort to extreme

antics to drum up support for their cause in south Florida, an area that used to be a hotbed of anti-Castro activism.

Saturday, a group of 44 Cuban exiles left Marathon, Florida, for the edge of Cuban territorial waters on the "Sea King" for what organisers called "a peaceful demonstration to pray" during the Pontiff's historic visit.

While flotillas of up to 50 ships would set sail on such protests in years past, the ocean-going protests in 1997 were all quite small, reaching a nadir with this weekend's minuscule protest.

The "Sea King" stopped just outside Cuban territorial waters, and passengers dropped flowers in the ocean at about the same time that Pope John Paul II was presiding over his third mass on the Communist-ruled island.

A Coast Guard escort made sure the "Sea King" turned back to Florida after the ceremony.

A Cuban MIG jet in February 1996 downed

two private planes flown by pilots of another Miami-based anti-Castro group. Brothers to the Rescue, which Havana said had invaded its airspace. Since that incident in which four people died, the Coast Guard has been empowered to seize any ship or plane suspected of planning to enter Cuban territory illegally.

Mr. Sanchez, who has no visa to enter Cuba, said he believes it is illegal and a violation of the U.N. human rights charter to stop a citizen from returning to his country of origin.

Mr. Sanchez's ship sailed late Friday from Pompano Beach, Florida, some 450 kilometres from the Cuban coast.

"We hope that Mr. Sanchez has reconsidered his actions," the Coast Guard's Diaz said. "He already got what he wanted, which was to get the media to pay attention."

If he does land in Cuba Sanchez is likely to face charges in the United States, Mr. Diaz said.

## Yeltsin plans security service merger in reform drive

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin plans to integrate the Federal Borderguards Service with the Federal Security Service (FSB) in a bid to reduce costs and boost efficiency, Russian news agencies reported Sunday.

The Borderguards Service will become a department within the FSB, according to a draft presidential decree due to be issued within a month, unnamed sources close to the Russian government told Interfax.

Last month, Federal Borderguards chief Andrei Nikolayev resigned in protest at what he saw as a weakening of Russia's position in a row with Georgia over illegal liquor imports. One of Mr. Nikolayev's aides, Alexander Tymko, became interim head of the service.

FSB chief Nikolai Kovalyov was likely to retain his post after the merger, one source said.

A defence ministry source said the Borderguards Service would be reorganised and its staff reduced, because its administration had expanded to 3,000, from a maximum of 1,400 set by presidential decree.

The service's heavy weapons will be transferred to the defence ministry, the source added.

Russian Defence Council experts quoted by ITAR-TASS said 90 per cent of the Borderguards Service's current aims and tasks duplicated those of the FSB.

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# World News

## China clears border of minefields to improve relations

BEIJING (AFP) — Chinese soldiers have cleared 10 million square metres of landmines along the country's border with Vietnam, in a goodwill gesture to improve relations, the official Xinhua news agency said Sunday.

News of the minesweeping operation comes just one day after tensions flared over a dam built by the Vietnamese on a river in a different area of the border between the two nations.

Soldiers in the southern Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous region of China cleared the minefields in two operations, Xinhua said.

Vietnam officials have expressed support for the operations. A senior Chinese military official said the latest minesweeping operation is intended to further develop Sino-Vietnamese ties and help boost the growth of the economy along the border areas.

The first of the two operations began in the early 1990s, when China and Vietnam restored diplomatic relations. The second operation was undertaken in November 1997, clearing 120 minefields stretching across 20 million square metres of land.

Between Nov. 28 and Jan. 25, tens of thousands of mines were removed, said Qiu Daxiong, deputy commander of the Guangxi military area command. One soldier lost his right foot when he rescued another soldier who had lost his balance and fallen onto a minefield, the agency said.

The operation has so far cost 78 million yuan (\$9.4 million).

Sino-Vietnamese border trade grew from \$100 million in 1992 to \$360 million in 1997, Xinhua said.

Saturday, China denied it had changed its border with Vietnam, and claimed Vietnam had redirected the course of a boundary river with a partial dam.

China said the Vietnamese built a dam in the Dongzhong section in a disputed area between the two countries, separate from the minesweeping area.

The Vietnamese had reinforced the dam since August to artificially change the alignment of the river, China said. Meanwhile, Vietnam accused China of deliberately provoking the situation by building a river embankment that encroaches into Vietnamese territory along the border.

A Chinese foreign ministry spokesman stressed Saturday, however, that "the Sino-Vietnamese border is tranquil in general."

The two countries have had regular meetings to discuss border delineation issues since 1991, and have agreed to resolve all outstanding issues by 2000.



French President Jacques Chirac (left) talks with Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral in New Delhi (Reuters photo)

## French PM's popularity plunges after jobless' protests

PARIS (AFP) — French Socialist Prime Minister Lionel Jospin's popularity has plunged below the key 50 per cent mark following more than six weeks of high-profile protests by the country's unemployed, a survey showed Sunday.

The IFOP survey in the weekly Le Journal du Dimanche showed Mr. Jospin's popularity down nine points to 42 per cent in January compared to December, the first time the leftwing leader has slipped below 50 per cent in any survey since taking office last June.

The paper said the unrelenting campaign by the jobless, the first time French unemployed people have taken to the streets, was responsible for Mr. Jospin's fall from favour.

Demands for better benefits for the country's 3.1 million unemployed have also severely tested the unity of Mr. Jospin's coalition of Socialists, Greens and Communists, who came to office with the battle against unemployment their top priority.

In spite of wide public

backing for the campaign,

Mr. Jospin has refused to yield to demands for immediate raises in benefits, saying the government does not have the money.

He has said he wants to place the emphasis on job creation rather than on welfare and is pinning his hopes on draft legislation to cut back the working-week to 35 hours which will go before parliament Tuesday.

Leaders of the jobless protest have called for new nationwide demonstrations the same day.

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## Chirac holds talks with New Delhi on nuclear energy

NEW DELHI (R) — French President Jacques Chirac said Sunday he would discuss nuclear energy cooperation with India as part of a drive to boost diplomatic and economic ties.

Mr. Chirac, the first French president to visit India in nine years, was welcomed outside New Delhi's elegant presidential palace by President K.R. Narayanan, caretaker Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral and a 21-gun salute.

He then laid a wreath at a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi, who was assassinated 50 years ago this week.

"In the name of France, I bow with emotion and respect before the memory of a great people," Mr. Chirac wrote in a book of tribute to the spiritual father of Indian independence.

Speaking to reporters in wintry sunshine outside the

presidential palace, Mr. Chirac said any nuclear cooperation between the two countries would have to respect international regulations.

"It is a subject we can broach... and which we will discuss with respect for Indian and international rules," he said.

France, which relies on nuclear energy for 75 per cent of its power, stopped supplying fuel to an Indian atomic power station near Bombay in 1993 after New Delhi's refusal to allow a full inspection of nuclear installations by the international atomic energy agency.

India refuses to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty under which all of its nuclear facilities would have to be opened to international monitoring.

Another rift in diplomatic relations surfaced in 1995 when France approved talks on the potential sale of 32 Mirage 2000-5 fight-

er jets to Pakistan, India's arch-foe.

The sale has not gone ahead because of the cost but Pakistan's air force chief said recently that Islamabad should either "try to open a dialogue with Moscow for their good, cheaper aircraft" or buy the Mirages.

Mr. Chirac, accompanied by three cabinet ministers and a delegation of French business chiefs, began his three-day visit in Bombay Saturday.

Keen to add zest to the modest economic links between the two countries, Mr. Chirac pressed ahead with his trip despite the fall of the Indian government last month. Elections are due to be held from Feb. 16 to March 7.

Referring to the upcoming election at an Indo-French business seminar in Bombay, Mr. Chirac said his visit was a vote of confidence in India.

"As your country goes to

the vote, my visit is also a vote — a vote of confidence in India," he said.

Mr. Chirac called for closer cooperation between India and France in business and industry.

France lags behind the United States, Britain, Germany and the Netherlands in trade with India. Trade between the two countries was \$1.86 billion in 1996, about 50 per cent higher than in 1992.

Mr. Chirac said France had become the seventh biggest investor in India since 1991, when India launched its far-ranging programme of economic reform.

United News of India said French and Indian ministers signed accords on mutual legal assistance in criminal and judicial as well as civil matters Sunday.

A third accord, on the transfer of convicted offenders, was put on hold because of legal hurdles.

## Sonia Gandhi regrets army assault on Golden Temple, anti-Sikh riots

CHANDIGARH, India (AFP) — The Italian-born widow of former Premier Rajiv Gandhi Sunday voiced regret over a 1984 Indian army assault ordered by her mother-in-law, Indira Gandhi, on Sikhism's holiest shrine.

Sonia Gandhi, 51, said she also regretted the anti-Sikh riots that left more than 5,000 dead across India following Indira Gandhi's assassination by two Sikh police guards the same year.

Her speech at a Congress rally here kicked off the once-dominant party's campaign in the northern state of Punjab ahead of the February-March elections.

"Such incidents should not have happened," she said with-

out naming "Operation Blue Star", the June 6, 1984, military assault on the Golden Temple which left 600 Sikh separatists and soldiers dead and scarred the complex.

"There is no use recalling what we have collectively lost ... No words can heal that pain ... Consolation from others always somehow seem hollow," she told a huge gathering of supporters in Chandigarh, capital of Sikh-majority Punjab.

Recalling the Hindu backlash against Sikhs following Indira Gandhi's Oct. 30, 1984, assassination, Sonia Gandhi said: "No words can heal the wounds of the riot victims."

"Being a widow and mother, I

can understand the agony of those who suffered," she said of some 3,000 Sikhs massacred by armed Hindu mobs in the Indian capital. Some 2,000 more were butchered elsewhere in the country.

Her statement came a day after the Congress, which has roped her in to campaign ahead of the upcoming polls, apologised for the first time over the razing of an ancient mosque by Hindu fanatics in 1992.

She said the Nehru-Gandhi political dynasty, which gave India three prime ministers and ruled the country virtually unchallenged for the first four decades since independence in 1947, was also a "victim of vio-

lence."

Her husband Rajiv Gandhi was killed by a human bomb during an election campaign in the southern state of Tamil Nadu in 1991.

Sonia Gandhi, who wears a sari in public, became an Indian citizen in 1986. She has continued to live in New Delhi since her husband's assassination.

The Congress hoped her into the electioneering roped to end years of decline by exploiting the charisma of the Nehru-Gandhi name.

She has rejected jibes of Hindu nationalists that she was a foreigner, saying she considered herself "a daughter of Mother India."

## Tigers blast Buddhist shrine ahead of Prince Charles' Sri Lanka trip

COLOMBO (AFP) — Tamil Tiger guerrillas bombed Sri Lanka's holiest Buddhist shrine, killing 11 people and prompting reprisal attacks on Hindu targets Sunday, ahead of a visit by Britain's Prince Charles, officials said.

The daring suicide truck bombing in Kandy, 72 miles east of here, was aimed at disrupting the 50th independence celebrations, but they will go ahead as planned, junior Defence Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte said.

Prince Charles has been invited as the main guest at the golden jubilee festivities which include a religious service at the 16th century temple regarded as the most important symbol of Sri Lanka's culture.

Mr. Ratwatte, who is leading the government's military drive against the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said the rebels staged Sunday's attack to ease pressure against them in the north of the country.

"We will begin repairs immediately," Mr. Ratwatte said as he surveyed the damage to the temple buildings which were supposed to be tightly guarded against just such an attack.

"The terrorists cannot force us to change our plans. We will have the independence day celebrations in Kandy as scheduled."

British High Commission (embassy) officials said it was too early to say if the blast would affect the visit by

Prince Charles but however added it would be taken into consideration in taking a decision.

Opposition leader Ranil Wickremesinghe urged Mr. Ratwatte to accept responsibility for security lapses and resign.

Police said three LTTE men smashed through a roadblock at dawn and detonated their explosives-laden truck right at the entrance to the Temple of the Tooth causing a crater big enough to bury an elephant.

Police said eight civilians were killed instantly along with the three bombers while more than 25 were wounded. Two assault rifles, ammunition and two radio sets were recovered from the scene.

The 16th century temple's roof was damaged and its newly painted white walls were sprayed with black soot, brown dust and pellets from the truck bomb.

Windows were shattered in almost every building in this historic town that was readying to host the independence anniversary on Feb. 4.

Streets near the temple were strewn with glass and leaves and tree branches. Several houses, including the official residence of the chief lay custodian of the temple, Niranjan Wijeratne, had their roofs blown in.

Mr. Wijeratne said the inner sanctum miraculously escaped damage and the shrine where Buddha's left canine tooth is supposedly enshrined was unharmed. "It

is the power of the tooth relic that saved the building," he said.

The Japanese-built truck used in the bombing was blown to smithereens and only its rear axle was left.

The temple in Kandy, 112 kilometres east of Colombo, had been under tight security ever since Tiger rebels gunned down 146 pilgrims at another important Buddhist site in the north-central temple town of Anuradhapura in May 1985.

After Sunday's bombing, Sinhalese mobs attacked a Hindu Cultural Centre near the Buddhist temple and set fire to two cars there. Earlier reports said the centre itself had been set on fire.

Police fired teargas on mobs who stoned and damaged the car of Cultural and Religious Affairs Minister Lakshman Jayakody, accusing him of failing to protect Buddhism's holiest shrine.

"There are small groups of mobs roaming here and there but police have been asked to disperse crowds," a local official said by telephone.

Sunday's attack was reminiscent of the Oct. 15 truck bombing at the World Trade Centre in downtown Colombo in which 20 people were killed and some 105 wounded.

The LTTE was also blamed for a more powerful truck bombing of the Central Bank building in Colombo which killed 91 office workers and injured 1,400 others on Jan. 31, 1996.

## Botha issues summons for Tutu to appear in S.African court

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — South Africa's former president Pieter Botha has summonsed truth commission head Desmond Tutu to appear when the case against Mr. Botha resumes on Feb. 23, Sunday newspaper Rapport said.

The Afrikaans-language weekly, the only newspaper 82-year-old Botha is willing to speak to regularly, said that should Mr. Tutu fail to attend, he would be liable to a fine of 300 rand (\$60) or a three-month term in prison.

Mr. Tutu, the former Anglican archbishop of South Africa, is chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

The fiery Mr. Botha, who led South Africa during the harshest

years of apartheid in the 1980s, is being prosecuted for failing to appear in person before the TRC to testify on the apartheid-era state security council, which he headed.

He made a brief appearance Friday in the magistrate's court in the Western Cape resort of George, during which documents were exchanged and legal niceties dealt with.

Magistrate Victor Laugaju adjourned the hearing until Feb. 23, when Mr. Botha will formally be charged and asked to make a plea. The trial proper will start on April 14.

Responding to the summons, TRC spokesman Phila Ngqumba told the SAPA news agency:

"The matter is out of our hands now and in the hands of the court. We, as the commission, will be directed by the court as to what the next step will be."

In an annex to the summons, Mr. Botha requests the TRC to provide him with a host of transcripts of his hearings, including those of Frederik de Klerk, Mr. Botha's successor, former cabinet ministers P.W. Botha, General Magnus Malan, Roelf Meyer and Leon Wessels, and former intelligence chief Dr. Niel Barnard.

Transcripts are also requested of the TRC's questioning of, among others, President Nelson Mandela's former wife, Ms. Winnie, and the former military

ruler of the Ciskei apartheid-era tribal homeland, Oupa Gqozo.

Mr. Botha claims he reached an "agreement of co-operation" with Mr. Tutu during a meeting in George in November 1996, under which he would supply the TRC with written answers to questions in exchange for a guarantee that he would not personally have to appear before the truth body.

The former president provided the TRC with a reply stretching to more than 1,800 pages late last year and claims now that the TRC is being malicious in demanding he appear in person before the commission, and in charging him for refusing to do so.

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Jordan Press Foundation,  
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Facsimile: 696183

E-mail: jtimes@go.com.jo

Web Sites: http://accessme.com/JordanTimes/

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

## Miscalculation has price

THE IRAQI regime appears to be digging in deeper its heels over the latest stand-off with the U.N. But is this the result of a conscious attempt by the Iraqis to link the execution of the mandate of the UNSCOM inspection teams to U.S. President Bill Clinton's sudden preoccupation with his domestic problems?

On paper the president's woes could push him to act in one of two opposite directions vis-a-vis Iraq. His woes could prevent him from acting forcefully to carry out the UNSCOM mission or alternatively give him an added incentive to order a military strike against Iraqi targets.

Should President Saddam Hussein miscalculate again, the people of Iraq and the country as a whole stand to suffer the most. That is why Baghdad cannot afford to lose sight of principles and targets that it has set for itself for some time now.

Iraq, on the one hand, has had every sovereign right to question the manner and ultimate aim of the inspection teams, which have been working there for several years. Their mission has gone on for too long and too far without an apparent end in sight. It is one thing to make sure that Iraq is no longer manufacturing or possessing mass-destruction weapons and quite another to make the implementation of the U.N. Security Council mandate an open-ended exercise, the Iraqis have been arguing. Russia, supported by France and China, have sought to no avail the closing of the files on at least the nuclear weapons. If the Iraqi authorities are led to believe that the agenda of the inspection teams go beyond the verification of the existence or the lack of it of prohibitive weapons, then it becomes understandable that they would choose to up the ante at this critical stage when there is an ongoing internal crisis of mushrooming proportions in the U.S.

On the other hand, the Iraqi regime should not deceive itself into believing that Washington is completely paralysed because of the presidential crisis.

Baghdad has legitimate concerns and they should be cultivated and pursued in a responsible manner. Above all, the Iraqi government must not give the impression that it aims to exploit the so-called "Monicagate" in the U.S., not least because its immediate impact on foreign policy as well as its outcome remain highly uncertain.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i's Tareq Masarweh said the failure of the U.S. president to persuade Netanyahu to comply with the peace accords and President Clinton's sex scandal are clear omens that coming events do not bode well for the Arab Nation. The writer said that in order to divert American public attention from the White House scandal, Clinton might precipitate the long expected American attack on Iraq and he would condone Netanyahu's total disregard of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. Furthermore, the U.S. might exercise more pressure on Syria and Egypt as well as the Gulf states to make them comply with its desires and wishes which of course are tailored to benefit the Jewish state, added the writer. A weak president in the White House, said the writer, might resort to anything to help him recover part of his lost credibility; and the Arab World, Iraq in particular, seems to be the easiest target at the moment for attaining that goal.

Al Arab Al Yawm's Saleh Qallab launched a scathing attack on groups and elements whom he said have been trying to sow seeds of dissent and division among the Jordanian people. These groups are not concerned about the future of this country or its people but are only concerned about their own selfish interests, said the writer. Referring to moves by the judicial authorities to deal with these groups, the writer said it is time for the whole Jordanian society to back these authorities and declare war on voices that instigate disturbances and divisions among the one Jordanian family. Calling these groups opportunists, the writer said that they are trying to create an imaginary enemy other than the real enemies on the domestic front like corruption, bribery, the stifling of public freedoms which the public ought to confront. The writer said the opportunists are trying to create divisions by considering Jordanians of Palestinian origin as a minority whereas Jordanians and Palestinians constitute a united society before and after the Oslo accords and before and after the peace process and before and after the final status solution of the Palestine problem.

## Economic Review

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur

## Lessons in protectionism from the big guys

THE WORLD of international trade today is dominated by the theory of free trade where the 220-year-old words of Adam Smith, "Let them work, let them pass" are still resounded with gullibility and ignorance of the intricacies of the present, more complex world of global exchange. In this world big countries dictate to small countries what they should or should not do, and lecture them on a two-century-old wisdom and the benefits of free trade, while they, the large industrial economies, continue unabashedly to protect many sectors of their own economies.

There are many reasons for small countries not to protect their industries, prominent among these are: The fear of triggering possible retaliatory measures by other countries, especially the larger ones, which would adversely affect the exports of the small country and possibly destroy or at least degrade the short-term gains from protectionism; the lack of funds to subsidise promising sectors — an option which is considered from both the theoretical and empirical perspectives as superior to protectionism because subsidies, unlike customs duties or technical barriers to trade, do not have an inflationary effect; and the fear of losing fiscal and monetary aid as a result of imposing heavy duties on the products imported from a donor country.

On the other hand, developing countries have several incentives to protect their industries, including: customs duties provide an easy source of revenue to the treasury; protectionism usually attracts support from domestic

industrialists and labour unions; and protectionism involves little-to-no additional expenditures by the usually cash-strapped governments of the developing world.

One example of heavy protectionism in an advanced market is the well-known case of the European Union's (EU) protectionist policy toward its agricultural sector. The level of subsidies provided to European farmers is so high that EU farmers received a third of their income in the form of subsidies from Brussels last year. This percentage is expected to rise in the near future to two thirds. And because of a protectionist policy, which prevents competition to EU farmers from low-cost agricultural imports, the average family in the EU is estimated to spend \$30 more per month to shoulder the cost of high food prices.

Furthermore, there is a significant correlation between the level of subsidies and the level of output. European farmers, since the mid 1970s, have been producing more than they could sell, a clear case of market failure due to the existence of a "moral hazard;" producers and/or consumers behave in a manner that is inconsistent with normal market behaviour as subsidies encourage not only the continuance but also the increase of inefficient production or consumption. Forty years ago the average EU farmer produced 2.5 tonnes of wheat per hectare, today, because of subsidies, the average is 6.25 tonnes per hectare. Also, 40 years ago, an average EU hen laid 110 eggs per year; now this figure has climbed to 300 eggs per year.

Additionally, once the subsidies are in place it becomes extremely unpopular to remove them. The United Kingdom recently warned that it would fight any attempts by the EC to impose EU-wide ceilings on payments to farmers. In Jordan we have our own examples of the insurmountable difficulties and the sure political suicide associated with attempts at removing subsidies, even though one government after another had to resort to borrowing to finance existing age-old subsidies.

Protectionism and subsidies can be easily consumed by large wealthy nations. Alas, small countries cannot afford to be protectionists because the big guys won't let them do so, and they cannot extend subsidies to producers without having to resort to borrowing and incurring the wrath of the mighty. The best industrial policy for Jordan is to increase the long-term competitiveness of the economy. And while advocates of protectionism may try to convince the majority of us that their industries are all that Jordan does or can do, we must always remind them and ourselves of the opportunity cost associated with any non-optimal allocation of resources. Rich countries can afford to waste resources because they have them and they can compensate for them through efficiency enhancement elsewhere; poor countries cannot afford to waste resources because simply they do not have them.

## The trousers problem in America

"ALTHOUGH THE travellers who visit North America differ on many points, they all agree in remarking that morals are far more strict there than elsewhere."

— Alexis de Tocqueville, 'Travels in America', 1835

SATYRIASIS, n. Pathol. Abnormal, uncontrollable sexual desire in men.

— Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary

By Gwynne Dyer

WE ARE primates, so it's not surprising that the chief monkey often has a "trousers problem." "Power is the great aphrodisiac," as a delighted Henry Kissinger noted when he was U.S. secretary of state, but its most profound effect is on the actual holder of the power. It makes you think you're irresistible — and the blood rushes away from your head, making you stupider than usual.

Where it allegedly rushes to, in Bill Clinton's case, is an organ all of 5 inches long (12 cm.) fully expanded, with the circumference of a 25-cent piece, which veers off at an unusual angle. (For purposes of comparison, a telephone pole...Never mind.)

Those, at any rate, are the "distinguishing characteristics" of Bill Clinton's member as Paula Jones describes it. The U.S. President spent six hours in a room with Jones on 17 January, giving sworn evidence on her claim that he exposed himself to her and requested

oral sex in 1991, but that was just the appetiser. The main event, it appears, is going to be Monica Lewinsky.

Bill Clinton has lived in the United States all his life (apart from a few years in England), and he knows how his country works. It's unbelievable that he would risk having an 18-month affair with Monica Lewinsky, an "intern" less than half his age who was working voluntarily in the White House, even as the Paula Jones case was making its way through the media towards the courts.

Except that independent prosecutor Kenneth Starr says he has tapes of 17 secretly recorded conversations in which Lewinsky gives graphic details of the alleged affair with Clinton (though she has since denied it). And Clinton, when asked if he had had a sexual relationship with Lewinsky in the past, replied very carefully "there is not a sexual relationship" with Lewinsky (in the present tense). But so what? Why does any of this matter?

The United States is very confusing for foreigners. They can understand Afghanistan, where you get stoned to death for adultery; nasty, but consistent. They understand France, where sexual morality is a private matter; when the late President Francois Mitterrand's wife and mistress both came to his funeral two years ago, nobody made a fuss.

But how to understand American attitudes? On the one hand, it has pioneered the commercialisation of sex for both advertising and pornography. On the other, it is still the most puritanical country in the West: as a Clinton adviser said in

1996, "we're not ready for Mitterrand's funeral."

Part of the answer is that the United States is still the nation the young Frenchman de Tocqueville visited over 150 years ago. A very high proportion of its early settlers were religious fanatics of one sort or another, and their influence continues to this day. It is by far the most religious country in the West, and also the most sanctimonious.

This didn't really cramp the style of senior politicians suffering from satyrism as late as the time of President John F. Kennedy, because in those days the American media were discreet and deferential towards American leaders. But new elements have now been added to the old mix: prurient mass media that have lost all deference towards authority, and a culture of confession.

President Jimmy Carter went to extremes in 1976, confessing to sins he hadn't actually committed, when he told 'Playboy' magazine: "I've looked on a lot of women with lust. I've committed adultery in my heart many times...and God forgives me for it." But it fitted the new confessional style, and it got people's attention.

Clinton was smart enough to take advantage of the cult of confession during the 1992 presidential campaign, when he defused the Gennifer Flowers story by promptly admitting to "marital difficulties" that were, of course, "all in the past." But there is a limit on how many confessions you are allowed, and an alpha male with satyrism is bound to find himself in trouble eventually.

Paula Jones' lawyers claim

that Clinton has had sex with literally hundreds of other women, of whom more than 20 had been publicly identified even before Clinton met Monica Lewinsky in 1994: Bobby Ann Williams, Polly Kyle, Sally Perdue, Connie Hamzy, Jo Jenkins, Gennifer Flowers...

Not all of them condemn him. "I find it hard to believe that he would drop his pants and expose himself to someone who had not clearly let him know that that's what she wanted him to do," Gennifer Flowers said loyally this month — adding: "There is no mark (on his penis) that I remember." But it's clear that Bill Clinton is a man whose trousers lead a hectic life.

There are a few other matters demanding Clinton's attention: the collapsing Israeli-Palestinian peace process, and the financial crisis sweeping Asia, and the perennial American problems of race and poverty. But it's unlikely now that they will get much attention for the rest of his term, even if he is not impeached.

He may not escape impeachment: serial fornication is not illegal, but asking former lovers to lie about it to a judicial investigation is. At best, Bill Clinton will be the lamest of lame ducks, and his second term still has 36 months to run.

What makes him do it? As Belgian crime writer Georges Simenon once remarked: "I have made love to 10,000 women since I was thirteen and a half. It wasn't in any way a vice...but I needed to communicate." It's lonely at the top, you know.

## Human Rights File

## Israel is playing foul in trying to pin down the PNA

By Waleed M. Sadi

HAD THE differences between the Israelis and Palestinians been really confined to just the issue of reciprocity, these differences could have been easily resolved by putting in place a mechanism for parallel and proportionate implementations. All that the two sides need to do under these circumstances would be to hinge the implementation of one part of their past accords with the implementation of another counterpart. Israel has withdrawn from only 3 per cent of the Palestinian territories and is asking for the fulfilment of a long list of "12 commandments or so" by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) before it would entertain redeploying its army from an additional 10 per cent or so of the occupied territories. Had Israel been more serious about reciprocity, it would have offered to withdraw immediately from another 10 or 15 per cent of the Palestinian lands and left the bulk of future redeployments contingent on what it terms as unfilled Palestinian commitments. This way Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would have given the PNA some encouragement to move forward with its own obligations.

Netanyahu must be the first to comprehend and appreciate the fact that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat cannot walk that extra mile without first showing that further cooperation from the Palestinian leader would get his people closer to their national aspirations. The Palestinian side has more need for confidence building measures from the Israeli side than the other way around simply because Israel is the stronger party and its new leadership has already cast doubts about its willingness to accord the Palestinian side something that they and future generations can live with. Arafat is more vulnerable than his Israeli counterpart and therefore he is the one who needs something concrete to go on.

By calling on the PNA to fulfil a long list of conditions before any further Israeli redeployment would take place, Netanyahu is in effect making it well-known to all sides that his real interest is not in reciprocity but rather in something else that goes much beyond.

In retrospect there are no real surprises coming from the Israeli leader. Netanyahu's platform for his election and the election of the Likud Party, in 1996 was stark naked in so far as it called for rewriting the Oslo accords. The Hebron deal was the first real sign that Netanyahu's master plan for peace talks with the PNA is heading that way. Everything Netanyahu has said and done since his rise to power points to the inescapable fact that dealing a death blow to the past Oslo accords is his ultimate objective. All the rhetoric about reciprocity and security concerns is therefore nothing but camouflage to lay the ground work for that final goal.

Yet Netanyahu's master plan for widening and lengthening Israel would not come without a price to his country and people. If the Likud has opted to retain much of the Palestinian lands, it should spell out more clearly what it intends to do with the Palestinian people under occupation. Would they remain stateless people forever or be driven out to neighbouring Arab countries. Jordan should be in the forefront of the Arab countries in expressing deep anxiety about this Israeli blueprint for the future should Netanyahu go ahead with this plan. If Netanyahu thinks that he can keep Palestinian lands and annex them without conferring civil and political rights on the affected people, he would be in effect running against international currents and international norms.

Obviously Israel, under its current leadership, seeks to maintain its grip on territories while disenfranchising their people. This will not work in the long run. Netanyahu may succeed for a limited time in this double yet contradictory goal, but there is no way that Israel would succeed in the long haul in this sinister plan. Denial of equal treatment to the Palestinians is bound to clash with Israel's treaty obligations especially the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) which it had already ratified and has become legally bound to.

Netanyahu's formula is a prescription for the creation of a bi-national state. The Palestinians could fare better under this trend in the long run provided they can attain their civil and political rights. If former Palestine is truly too small to be divided between the Israelis and the Palestinians, then Israel and the PNA should redirect their attention to establishing just this bi-national state in the upcoming few years. Netanyahu cannot have his cake and eat it too. If the Likud really believe that they are smarter than the Labour Party which has already opted for separating the Israelis from the Palestinians and has more of the real interests of his country at heart than the opposition, then he should put up with the natural results of his ideas and prepare his people for the inevitable.

The only positive thing that emerged from last week's talks in Washington between President Bill Clinton and the Palestinian and Israeli leaders is the U.S. leader's endorsement of the Palestinian yearning for a state of their own. U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright gave additional credence to this U.S. support by confirming in public in the wake of the White House talks with both sides that President Clinton sympathises with the Palestinian quest for their national aspirations. Yet without a meaningful Israeli withdrawal from the occupied areas, this sentiment in favour of a Palestinian state would have no opportunity for realisation.

M. KAHIL





January 26, 1998  
rights File  
playing  
ying to  
the PNA  
Al. Sadi

# Majali says professional unions should steer clear of politics, women's quota in parliament unnecessary

## Interview

Following is the full text of the Jordan Times interview with Prime Minister Abdul-Salam Majali conducted by Jordan Times reporter Hind-Lara Mungo.

J.T. In light of the mandate set for you as prime minister by His Majesty King Hussein, what plans do you have regarding the Election Law, in particular the possible inclusion of a women's quota, increasing the number of parliamentary seats, the voting age, etc...  
Dr. Majali: Under the directions of His Majesty the King we have formed a high level committee to look into the present law and to look into all the obstacles, difficulties and complaints from citizens who have run for elections and members of parliament. This committee will draft a new law to be presented to parliament. This law should really abolish all the routine and make the election as easy as possible so that they will be carried out within a few weeks without all the problems we go through at the moment.  
J.T. Are you personally for a women's quota?  
Dr. Majali: No, I am not at all because I think women and men equal. If they [women] run in the elections and are elected by the people then that is fine. But it is very difficult in our situation: which parts of Jordan will elect a woman and which can not? (Is it possible) to set a women's quota for Amman and not Karak, Tafleh, or Irbid? How can you have a quota for a certain constituency with only two seats? Do you give one to women and one to...this is impossible. I believe that if women

continue to campaign and rally for public support, then soon enough we will have quite a good number of them in office without a quota.  
J.T. What about professional associations and changing the policy of mandatory membership to voluntary membership and depoliticising these associations?  
Dr. Majali: So far there is no work on this. Now and again somebody gives his own opinion on such a law. We have to first respect the Constitution and second the law. We will get expert opinions from our daily work to assess whether this law has helped associations perform their duties in the best way. If this is taking place, then good, but if not, we have to correct and consult with all the people concerned.  
J.T. What about depoliticising these associations? Do you feel that there is a need to do this?  
Dr. Majali: According to the present law, associations should not be politicised, but unfortunately they were, especially in the days prior to the Political Parties Law. Since we have such a law, then politics should be within the boundaries of these parties and not associations. Associations and political parties have very important and valuable jobs to undertake. Otherwise, these two will clash.  
J.T. Are any amendments regarding political parties forthcoming?  
Dr. Majali: Again we have to study what has taken place since the implementation of the present law. We will be consulting with all people concerned, but so far we have not done this.  
J.T. Is the government planning a reshuffle? If so, have you prepared a



Abdul Salam Majali

programme?  
Dr. Majali: The issue of reshuffle or change is under His Majesty's [jurisdiction]. I certainly would be happy to discuss this with him, but so far there is nothing about a reshuffle. We are hoping to implement all that we have put in the reply to His Majesty when he asked me to form the government and to implement his directives.  
J.T. Some feel that the recent Washington talks have failed to break the stalemate in the Palestinian-Israeli track of the peace process. Do you agree? What sort of future scenario do

you envision?  
Dr. Majali: Unfortunately the leadership in Israel is still adamant on the way they believe they can implement peace. They talk of security as if it should come first before peace. You cannot talk of security without peace. You cannot have security if there is no peace. This is the formula which, I think, is understood and preferred by the Americans and the West. However, the fanaticism in the present [Israeli] administration has made this very difficult. I think that eventually public opinion in Israel, which really believes that peace has to be forth-

coming and all agreements have to be implemented, will make the present administration change its mind.  
J.T. Do you envision going back to the U.N. platform, or a Madrid II formula?  
Dr. Majali: I doubt that very much. I think that there will be other steps taken; the Americans may get the support of the Europeans to start with. If this fails then there could be a possible return to the Security Council.  
J.T. There are conflicting reports regarding the number of Jordanian prisoners still remaining in Iraqi prisons. Do you have the actual numbers?  
Dr. Majali: According to the very first list which they gave us there are about 160, and those that have been released are less than half. We are waiting for the rest to be released, according to what we have been told.  
J.T. Is the Jordanian government thinking of releasing Iraqi prisoners here who have been charged with crimes similar to Jordanians incarcerated in Iraq?  
Dr. Majali: We will be studying this very soon.  
J.T. You have described Jordan's relations with Iraq and Syria as being warm. But there are signals from these two countries indicating otherwise.  
Dr. Majali: Iraqi authorities opted to release the Jordanian prisoners to Laith Shubeilat, ignoring Jordan's appeals to do so at the highest levels. The Syrian media has harshly attacked Jordan for participating as an observer in naval exercises with Israel and Turkey. You have to differentiate between a small incident and a big issue. There is no big issue involved in the differences between Jordan and

Syria, and Jordan and Iraq. This is well understood, we are neighbours, we have common interests and so on. Certainly now and again they have their own views on certain issues as we also have our own views. This is normal, and does not mean that we have hard times with each other.  
J.T. How far have investigations by security and law enforcement personnel reached on the Rabia murders?  
Dr. Majali: Officially we have not yet reached absolute evidence to be announced to the people. I think that it is not right to disclose every piece of information, we want to guarantee absolute justice.  
J.T. The Human Rights Watch published a report on Jordan in October prior to the November 1997 elections. The report claims that Jordan cracked-down on press freedoms. The government has recently replied to this. Could you elaborate on the government's response to the charge?  
Dr. Majali: We asked if the new amendments to the law have limited press freedoms, then we wanted them to indicate the article that indicated this. I asked everybody in the press and the political parties to give me one article which limits the freedom of the press. Some have mentioned the increase in the paid-up capital of local newspapers. We did this because we have had a lot of claims by people working in such newspapers that they were not being paid. If there is no money to pay these people, then they will lose their rights. There is no authority in the political government to affect any newspaper whatsoever. It is the law. Cases involving the press go to court which everybody believes is good enough to judge.

## U.S. to propose phased withdrawal — report

(Continued from page 1)  
the accord pale beside the Palestinians' failure to prevent violent attacks which killed over two dozen Israelis last year, it has compiled a 12-page list of Palestinian violations.  
Israel now reportedly offers, instead of the three pullbacks, a single 10 per cent pullback.  
Mr. Netanyahu told his cabinet Sunday that Israel and the U.S. were still at odds over this.  
It was not clear whether the new U.S. proposal involved three "stages" of a single pullback, or would be seen as constituting all three pullbacks that Israel owes.  
Haaretz said U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is expected to raise the proposal with Mr. Netanyahu and President Arafat in upcoming meetings.  
Quoting Israeli and Palestinian sources, the newspaper said Ms. Albright would propose that Israel carry out the first withdrawal immediately, regardless of Palestinian actions.  
Top Netanyahu aide David Bar-Ilan denied there was any such proposal and said Israel would never agree to a pullback before the Palestinians took action.  
Arafat adviser Marwan Kanafani said the Palestinians had heard such ideas from the Americans and were considering them. Mr. Kanafani said President Arafat would meet with Ms. Albright in two weeks.  
Mr. Kanafani said that Mr. Arafat intended to fulfil his security responsibilities. "We will solve these issues and not let them become a real obstacle to the peace process."  
But after months of foot-dragging, relations between the two sides are badly strained, and Mr. Arafat even warned recently that the result could be a renewed Palestinian uprising against Israel.  
Mr. Erekat's comments in Jericho reflected the depth of the distrust.  
"We don't have any bilateral negotiations with Mr. Netanyahu," he said. "The trust level between us and Mr. Netanyahu doesn't exist." Mr. Erekat added that the Palestinians "are willing to accept international arbitration and

## Challenges facing region do not differentiate between Muslim, Christian — Prince Hassan

(Continued from page 1)  
to accept the results of international arbitration immediately."  
No Israeli reaction to that proposal was immediately available.  
An Israeli cabinet statement Sunday warned that "Israel will respond aggressively should the Palestinians engage in violence or threaten to do so."  
"Israel will not agree to conduct a peace process subject to the dictates of violence," it said.  
Israel is also demanding the Palestinians annul sections of the PLO Charter that call for Israel's destruction, maintaining that Palestinians never followed through on a 1996 vote by the Palestine National Council (PNC) to amend the document.  
Mr. Netanyahu wants the PNC to reconvene and hold a new vote. Palestinians say the repeat vote is unnecessary.  
Mr. Kanafani said Sunday that the Palestine Liberation Organisation's executive committee would meet to confirm the 1996 decision, but that the PNC, a larger body many of whose members are abroad, would not.

## Jordan may release Iraqi prisoners in return for Baghdad's move — Majali

(Continued from page 1)  
ion after the elections.  
Dr. Majali said that a high-level government committee had been appointed to draw lessons from the current elections law and draft a new legislation "that will abolish the routine and make the election process as easy as possible."  
He said he opposed demands by women activists that the government allocate 20 per cent of seats in the next parliament after females were defeated in the November polls that produced an all-male Lower House.  
He said he opposed such a move because it would discriminate between sexes and added that it was up to women to rally public support to gain seats in the next chamber.  
"Women and men are equal," therefore, they should be elected on an equal basis, he said.  
The current one-person, one-vote electoral system was highly criticised by the opposition as promoting sectarianism and tribalism, but the government used it for the November poll.  
He also said Jordan's 80,000-strong professional associations should focus on professional concerns instead of politics after Jordan legalised political parties in 1992.  
"Since we have political parties, then political issues should be dealt with by these parties and not by the professional associations," he said.  
The unions, many of them dominated by Islamists, have been the most prominent critics of Jordan's 1994 peace treaty with Israel. Without a significant parliamentary opposition, they are expected to become an even greater focus for dissent, politicians say.  
Though the government has remained tight-lipped over changes to the law regulating associations, Jordanian professionals object to the idea of imposing voluntary membership rules in these associations.  
"We will be studying this very soon," Dr. Majali said in response to a question on whether the government was considering plans to release Iraqi prisoners and detainees held in Jordanian jails. Officials have said there are 120 Iraqi inmates and detainees in Jordanian jails.  
Iraqi President Saddam Hussein last week freed 92 Jordanian prisoners after a meeting with Leith Shubeilat, a leading Jordanian opposition leader.  
Dr. Majali said more Jordanian prisoners remained in Iraqi jails as an initial list given to Jordan by Baghdad acknowledged

## Countdown to U.S. strike against Iraq said imminent

(Continued from page 1)  
ton and his top foreign policy advisers at a meeting on Saturday affirmed a tough stance against Iraq's latest transgression amid growing speculation about the possibility of a military strike.  
Mr. Clinton met Vice President Al Gore and other top foreign policy advisers to review the situation in Iraq and discuss "possible next steps," a White House official said.  
The New York Times said a consensus had emerged in the meeting that Iraq would never comply with the United Nations inspectors and that smart bombs and cruise missiles may be needed to destroy Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's hidden potential to build crude weapons of mass destruction.  
But with President Clinton involved in a sex scandal and his presidency under a cloud, the newspaper said administration officials were painfully aware that they might be accused of using an attack on Iraq as a diversion to sustain political and popu-

lar support for the embattled president.  
The Times said Washington planned to devote next week to convincing sceptical U.S. allies and members of Congress that military action is the only way to stop Iraq from building a biological and chemical arsenal.  
Commenting on the prospect of military action, the Times quoted a senior administration official as saying: "We're focused more on weeks than months or days."  
Clinton foreign policy advisers met twice about Iraq at the White House on Saturday, the first time without the president and the second time with him.  
They reviewed a report to the U.N. Security Council on Friday from the chief U.N. arms inspector, Richard Butler. He said Iraq seemed determined to withhold any new information about its weapons programmes and to prevent U.N. inspectors from obtaining it themselves if that meant entering certain sites.  
The Washington Post, quoting highly placed U.S. officials, reported on Saturday that a consensus among senior Clinton advisers emerged during hours of intensive White House meetings in recent days that military action will be necessary to force Iraq's compliance with U.N. resolutions.  
Already many of these discussions were focusing on what actions would follow in the aftermath of a heavy air bombardment campaign led by the U.S. with assistance from Britain, according to the report.  
Under one scenario being considered by the administration, an air campaign lasting several days would be followed by an expansion of the "no-fly" zones over Iraq to cover the entire country, the Post said.  
Asked about the report, a U.S. official said: "No decisions have been made. The president's advisers have not recommended any action, the president has not approved any action, so it's premature to jump to speculative conclusions."  
But the official admitted the U.S. and its allies were "losing patience" with Iraq.

## Iraqis given anthrax secrets by British — paper

(Continued from page 1)  
Iraq with producing enough anthrax bacteria to fill two missile warheads a week.  
Anthrax is a fatal bacterial disease of sheep and cattle which is transmissible to humans and usually affects the skin and lungs.  
The West's role in providing Iraq with anthrax knowledge began at a workshop in Winchester, southern England in 1988, the Observer said.  
Among 80 scientists from around the world were

from our point of view is that there will be no additional transfer of territory without a clear plan for the Palestinian implementation of their commitments." Mr. Netanyahu added.

## Netanyahu warns Israel will retaliate if intifada erupts

(Continued from page 1)  
advances in their meetings.  
"There is still a gap concerning the scope between us and the Americans but there has been some narrowing of the positions," he said.  
The United States had demanded Israel withdraw from at least 11 per cent of the West Bank but Mr. Netanyahu proposed less than 10 per cent in accordance with a cabinet decision last week outlining the areas Israel will not cede.  
Mr. Netanyahu has demanded that, before Israel agree to the pull-out, the Palestinians crack down on anti-Israeli groups and fulfil commitments it agreed to in past peace accords.  
"The clear principle



## Message from the Ambassador of India

ON THE AUSPICIOUS occasion of the Republic Day of India, I would like to extend my greetings and good wishes to all my Jordanian friends.

Fifty years have passed since India got its independence from Britain in 1947. Initially it continued to possess a tenuous link with the British empire which was ultimately severed on 26 January 1950 when India declared itself to be a sovereign, secular, democratic republic. The march of the country during these 50 years has been marked by many challenges. Some were external but many were internal and it goes to the wisdom of its leaders and the tenacity of its citizens that India has been able to maintain its unity and democracy, and has been able

to develop economically. It may be mentioned here that India is a multi religious, multi racial and multi linguistic society with several sub-cultures thriving together. The Indian civilisation is the only civilisation in the world which started in remote antiquity some 5 thousand years ago and is still an inspiration and a model for the peoples of the world.

On a personal note, I would like to share with you that I am now leaving Jordan at the end of my tour of duty in Amman. The last 2 1/2 years that I spent in Jordan were some of the best years I have spent in the diplomatic service. I am charmed by this ancient land with the most erudite leadership, and a modern and cultured population. Under the leadership of



His Majesty King Hussein, Jordan has become a model for other developing countries to emulate. I take this opportunity to express my sincere greetings and best wishes to the Royal Hashemite family and the people of Jordan. I thank my friends and well wishers for the support my wife and I have received from them.

Gajanan Wakankar

## Historic gardens of India

WHILE THE historic Indian gardens today are a means of recreation to the people at large, these are also a strong link with the country's colourful past.

Gardens in India are at least as old as those of Persia, and Hindu mythology contains many references to them. The first of the great Indian gardens of 4 to 3 c BC was that of the Mauryan King Chandragupta at Patliputra, near present-day Patna, described as having fish tanks, peacocks and pheasants, plants, parterres and shade trees as well as splendid buildings. Similar accounts of the gardens of King Ashoka, a few centuries later, also exist.

The early gardens of Buddhist seminaries and monasteries were devoted to retreat and meditation but remain today, as at Sarnath and Sanchi, only as archaeological sites. Then there were the numerous gardens of rulers and merchants, as well as a large number of gardens created by the early Muslim Emperor Feroz Shah in an around Delhi 600 years ago.

The Mughal gardens of the 16th c and 17 c located on the plains and in Kashmir are those which have justifiably attracted attention the most. The first of these was possibly the Ram Bagh at Agra established by Emperor Babur. Their most creative phase peaked under Emperor Jahangir as at Shalimar Bagh in Kashmir and perfected under Shah Jahan, as at the Taj Mahal and Red Fort in Delhi. There was also a strong Hindu garden tradition, most noticeable in the 16c garden

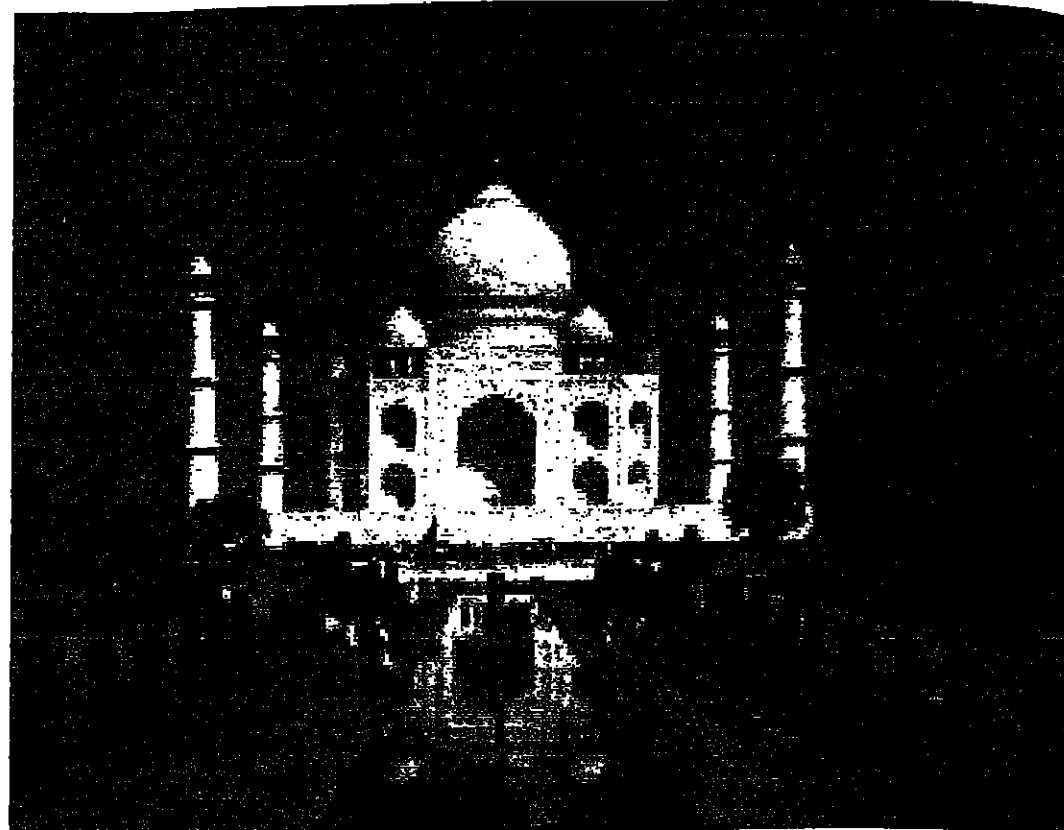
at Vijayanagar and in the 18c gardens at Jaipur.

The Taj Mahal (1630-53) was built by Emperor Shah Jahan as a mausoleum to the memory of his favourite wife Mumtaz Mahal. It is set majestically on a raised platform at the end rather than, as is more usual, at the centre of the classic char bagh (Quadrilateral garden), based on the Paradise garden described in the Holy Koran. As is customary, the garden is enclosed on three sides by a wall and on the fourth by the River Yamuna.

A long north-south watercourse with fountains leads from the platform of the main entry gateway to a raised marble tank half way along its length. Here it meets canals on the east-west axis before finally leading to the tomb whose splendour is reflected in the water. The geometry of the garden is reinforced by sandstone pathways that flank the canals as well as further subdivide the four quadrants. There are stone and marble benches but no water chutes or chadders, and fountains are only located within the main canal that leads to the mausoleum.

Originally, water was drawn from the Yamuna by a system of buckets and then collected in rooftop reservoirs located over rooms in the middle of the walls that bound the garden—a system that has since been replaced by electric pumps. The garden is directly irrigated by overflow from the canals and for this reason the causeways are slightly raised.

The Amber Palace.



The pathway to Taj Mahal lined by beautiful trees.

stone paths form the shape of a star, once taken as a symbol of both life and intellect. These paths divide the sunken garden in a formal geometric manner and link to bridges that in turn lead to a central octagonal platform.

The Hindu palace gardens at Deeg, 98 kilometres west of Agra, were laid out by the Maharaja of Bharatpur, Suraj Mal, in the first half of the 18c. The formal char bagh plan is formed by four canals that start with a cascade and lead to a central tank. Since the parterres are sunk more than usual, a possible intention was to have a thick mass of flowers that reached the level of the paths, rather than thinly spaced regular planting: the tree spacing, however, is more formally disciplined. Flowers supply a great range of colour and together with flowering trees, shrubs and herbs provide many scents. Stone-flagged footpaths lead to the various buildings via ramps and steps.

Most gardens are designed to provide pleasure in one form or another and this was certainly the case at Deeg. For example, a swimming pool was designed with a swing that passed through cooling jets in the heat of the summer. In fact, water in this garden is fully exploited. Fed from a large raised tank located at the south end of the garden, there are canals, pools and chadders: many fountains are located within the canals as well as within the pavilions that flank the main building. This building is flanked by gardens and at the rear, kiosks and balconies overlook the reservoir. A further pavilion overlooks another reservoir on the east side of the main garden. A unique feature of its latter pavilion is a double roof with a device that was once operated by water forced through hollow columns to rotate lithic stone balls; when these balls rolled along water channels, the thunder of the mon-

soons was simulated. Admittedly, it may well be assumed that the majority of today's visitors could be more interested in a garden's potential to afford pleasure and enjoyment than in its scholarly authenticity. Nonetheless, it is instructive to compare the present state of these gardens with what is known of their original condition, bearing in mind that trees and shrubs grow, die, and are replaced, and that successive head gardeners and private owners, followed later by government departments with responsibilities to the public, have all exerted their ideas and influence over time.

The historic Indian gardens still provide a strong measure of continuity with the past. Besides the quiet and fresh air that these supply, in contrast to the noise from traffic and dust 'outside', their designs possess a unity and 'simplicity' that remains of fundamental relevance even today.

## India: rich and magnificent

"WHEN I think of India, I think of many things: of broad fields dotted with innumerable small villages; of towns and cities... of the magic of the rainy season which pours life into the parched-up land and converts it suddenly into a glistening expanse of beauty and greenery, of great rivers and flowing water; of the southern tip of India; of people, individually and in the mass; and above all of the Himalayas, snow-capped, or some mountain valley in Kashmir in the spring, covered with new flowers, and with a brook bubbling and gurgling through it... for India stretches from the tropical to the temperate regions, from near the equator to the cold heart of Asia."

— Jawaharlal Nehru

INDIA TODAY is a young democracy at its vibrant best — a citizenry of 960 million poised to achieve a national target of upward mobility.

The progress of a modern, industrially successful and culturally rich nation has so many faces. The people of this vast land can hardly be stereotyped: they are old and they are overwhelmingly young, they are farmers, artisans, weavers,

shepherds, locksmiths, jet pilots, nuclear physicists and space scientists, they make steel and run enormous power plants, build houses or make the bricks for them.

The vast land with its enormous diversity of history, people, cultures, faiths and languages make for a variety that can take in almost the world. The sturdy peasantry all over the country varies sharply from the urban dwellers in dress and lifestyles. While tradition is the hallmark of the former, dazzling innovation and "jet set" modes may characterise the latter. Both play a vital role in the development of the nation. The peasant who has over the years taken to newer forms of farming to produce bountiful harvests to feed the ever-growing number of Indians, the urban dweller who has in factories, workshops and offices created the "new" India that never ceases to surprise. However, the Indianness is always there. It is shaped by history and culture and leavened by a unique cohesiveness.

Farmers today see their sons educated in ever greater numbers to become doctors, engineers or lawyers. Girls who tended cattle or their homes



now go out to become doctors, lawyers and engineers, or for that matter technicians and businesswomen too. Perhaps the greatest ferment in free India is amongst women who first emerged from their hearths during the national movement and in the last forty years have moved with ever greater strides.

It is the people who make a country what it is. And so free India's people have toiled to reconstruct the country, built dams, roads and factories. In the vast farmlands, they have transformed agriculture and succeeded in ensuring that the country can feed itself.

The efforts of the people have today made India the pride of the Third World, an independent, democratic, self-reliant agricultural and industrial republic.

## JORDAN FERTILIZER ASSOCIATION

### ARAB POTASH CO.

### JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES CO.

## WISH THE PEOPLE OF INDIA A HAPPY REPUBLIC DAY AFFIRMING JORDANIAN FRIENDSHIP AND HOPES OF CONTINUED PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY





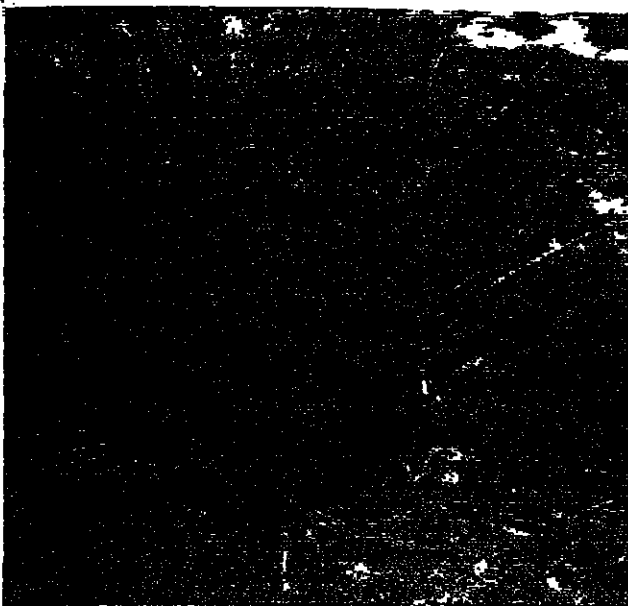
## Lure of the wild

THERE WAS a time, not more than half-a-century ago when India was the special destination of big-game hunters. "Shikar" and "machan" were the vocabulary of tourists whose goal was trophies of tigers and elephants. Scene has since changed. The pressure of population and the nation's desire to conserve nature's heritage has impelled a policy towards protecting wildlife in special reserves.

Kaziranga in Assam



Tiger — National animal



Peacock — National bird

houses the last of the Asian rhino; the Sundarbans, the densely forested Gangetic delta, preserves the most magnificent of the striped cats, the Royal Bengal tiger; in the foothills of the Kumaon Himalayas, in Jim Corbett territory, is the wildlife reserve named after the famous hunter-turned-conservationist. The last of the Asiatic lions are to be found in the Gir sanctuary in Gujarat not far from the Rann of Kutch, which is the home of the protected species of wild ass. India's national bird, the colourful peacock can be seen almost everywhere, but in great abundance in Rajasthan.

Such preserves with excellent facilities for tourists are dotted across the land and in them are to be found wild bison, elephants, tigers, deer and many other fauna.

## A tapestry of Indian performing arts

INDIAN CULTURAL traditions have roots spread over millennia. Although cinema made its appearance at the end of the 19th century, music, dance and theatre have their known history over several centuries. Since time immemorial, common men have been crowding at their make-shift performance sites.

Looking closely, Indian

music, dance and theatre have served a specific purpose over time which has gone much beyond mere entertainment. Establishing communication

Thus, dance mingles with music, music with paintings, paintings with sculpture and architecture: all in a complementary way. The Indian mind-set views the visual and performing arts in their entirety.



A sitar recital

music and dance have their genesis in the depths of devotion to God and religious sensibilities. The classical dances have gestures and movements as dedication to the divinity in a prayerful mood.

A deep religious sense of dedication has played such a vital role in all artistic sensibilities that the artists have relegated their own name to oblivion. Great choreographers of the splendid varieties of Mudras (postures) mentioned in Nattyashastra have put themselves beyond the pale of research. Just as the artists have not left their names anywhere, so have they omitted to leave any records of date and time.

Art expressions and manifestations have always been holistic.

among people and spreading education have been its aim right from the beginning.

For the folk music, folk dance and folk theatre, one has to add another prime purpose: participation of the people from audience. For all folk traditions of music, dance and theatre, there are some more fundamental traits observed both before and after independence. First, the folk arts have always been very dynamic whose patterns and meanings have peripherally changed from time to time. Secondly, folk traditions carry a large variety of themes. Thirdly, the folk arts have tremendous resilience. Fourthly, the folk traditions have an extraordinary sense of liveliness. And finally, music, dance and theatre in the folk-forms commingle with each other seamlessly.

The Western music thrives on the fully notated music based mainly on the black and white

Another seminal feature of the Indian music is its tala which is radically different from mere rhythm. Just as ragas have an organic existence, so have the talas; using their own syntax, with both articulation and silence. The lyrics of both North and South are dominated by a religious feeling. Many new instruments have been adopted like the violin, guitar and mandoline from the West.

The unbroken tradition in India caters for all the dance-movements of head, neck, chest, arm, waist, stomach and thigh, — apart from those of eyes, eyebrows, eyelids, eyeballs, cheek, nose, lips, teeth, tongue, chin, face as well as footfalls, fingers and toes. Various sentiments and emotions, starting from "Shringar" for love go upto laughter, compassion, anger, bravery, fear, hatred, weirdness and peace. The abstract dance (Nritta)

depicts sculptural poses without any narrative, while the mimetic dance (Nritya) interprets the epic stories or simple narratives of religious or courtly tales.

From the South comes Bharatanatyam of Tamil Nadu with an uninterrupted tradition among the temple-maids (Devadasis) over centuries.

Kathakali of Kerala is one of the canonised forms and performed as a complete dance-drama enjoying immense popularity. The other mellowed form of classical dance is Mohiniattam, mainly marked for women dancers, whose undulating torso resembles the swaying coconut leaves and the billowy waves of the coastal sea.

In Andhra, the Brahmin Bhagavatas had created yet another form of classical dance, named after Kuchipudi village, which used a tradition of singing and dancing to depict the epic tales.

In the North, the most popu-



Kathakali — a gorgeous dance drama

patrons in the Mughal emperors and, later, in the Oudh kings like Wajid Ali Shah.

In the North-East, Manipuri classical dance receives boosting from the Manipuri music and Kirtana, composed around Radha-Krishna's themes.

Among the Indian performing arts, drama is the one most influenced by the Western theatre, although all the regions have had sustained folk traditions.

Calcutta and Delhi have seen some remarkable street-theatre created by Utpal Dutt and Safdar Hashmi. Mono acting has



lar and prevalent form is Kathak, with its roots in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. The narrative uses a lot of scintillating footwork and devotes around the Radha-Krishna love-theme, having found early

been another unique genre. The post-independence times have seen a commercial explosion in the world of cinema and the industry today is among the largest in the world.

**On the occasion of the Republic Day of India Kavar Drug Store**

Conveys his hearty greeting to the government and Indian people.

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA A. R. KEVORKIAN CO. CONGRATULATES AND EXTENDS ITS BEST WISHES TO THE PEOPLE OF INDIA ON THIS GREAT OCCASION**

**On the occasion of the Republic Day of India Dr. Naser Al Maaitah**

director of Zarqa University Services Est. conveys his hearty greeting to the government and Indian people.

**On the occasion of the Republic Day of India Indo-Jordan Scholars Club**

conveys its hearty greeting to the government and Indian people

**PAK VAN SERVICES**

*Congratulates the Government & the People of India on the occasion of "The Republic Day of India" and extends its wishes for a healthy & prosperous future*



**Al Karmel Travel & Tourism Trading Company**

*The General Sales Agent in Jordan for*



**congratulates the Indian people on their**

**REPUBLIC DAY**



**MODERN VEHICLE TRADING CO.**

Agents of TATA in Jordan and

**ELBA HOUSE CO. LTD**

Manufacturers of TATA Buses in Jordan

Congratulate the president and the people of India on the occasion of the **REPUBLIC DAY**



**On the occasion of the Republic Day of India**



**Indo-Jordan Chemicals Company Ltd.**

(A Joint Venture of SPLC-India & JPMC-Jordan)

**CONVEYS ITS FELICITATIONS AND CORDIAL WISHES TO THE PEOPLE OF INDIA**



## Trade level with Iraq for '98 likely to stay unchanged at \$255 million

By Ghalia Alul  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan expects the trade level with Iraq under a 1998 protocol to remain the same as last year's \$255 million ceiling, an official source said Sunday.

Though Iraq was pushing for an expansion of trade volumes under an annual protocol that will be renewed soon, Jordan says any increase will only swell Iraqi debts owed to Amman and strain hard currency reserves.

A team of top Jordanian industrialists returned from Baghdad after talks with top Iraqi officials this week on Iraqi needs of food, medicine and other humanitarian supplies.

The delegation has been pushing for a \$50 million increase in exports to Iraq this year, the source said.

Iraq has been pushing hard for expanding the volume of Jordanian imports, supplied to Iraq facing crippling United Nations sanctions imposed on Baghdad after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The sanctions have banned all Iraqi exports but allowed Baghdad to import

a limited list of food, medicine and other humanitarian supplies.

Iraq remains a main market for Jordanian industries, many of which mushroomed during Baghdad's 1980-1988 war with Tehran to cater solely for the Iraqi market. They find it difficult to sell their goods in other markets.

Jordanian exports to Iraq in 1997 accounted for 40 per cent of overall exports to other Arab countries.

Iraq last month agreed to supply Jordan with 4.8 million tonnes of oil in 1998 — its full oil needs — at half the world price under an annual oil deal with Jordan.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein ordered that Iraq charge Jordan only \$8.4 per barrel — half of Iraq's ceiling of \$16.8 — which would reduce the final bill for 1998 to \$300 million.

Only around \$300 million to \$350 million will remain for Baghdad from its oil sales to Amman and that is paid to Jordanian firms for exports of food and medicine.

Amman Chamber of Industry (ACI) Chairman Khalid Abu Hassan told reporters Sunday that Iraq was waiting for Jordan to

set a date for a meeting in Baghdad to discuss the 1998 trade protocol.

The joint Jordanian-Iraqi committee met in Amman last year to decide on the protocol.

Mr. Abu Hassan, who headed the team of industrialists to Baghdad, said he hoped that the "1998 trade protocol will be concluded in line with the government's ability to pay exporters."

Mr. Abu Hassan's team expressed hope that the implementation of the third phase of an oil-for-food deal that Iraq reached with the U.N. in 1996 will set the ground for lifting the seven-year-old sanctions.

Iraq is allowed to sell \$2 billion worth of oil every six months under the partial deal.

Iraq has accused the U.N. of delaying authorisation for exports allowed under the deal as well as Iraqi needs of medicine and other supplies authorised under the sanctions.

Many Jordanian manufacturers have long complained of such delays.

In meetings with Iraqi industrialists and officials, Mr. Abu Hassan's team stressed the need to remove

all barriers impeding the implementation of deals signed between Jordanian and Iraqi firms either through the oil-for-food deal or under the trade protocol.

Iraq also reiterated its request that Jordan buy its needs of maize, sulphur, dates, leather and urea from the Iraqi market. But business sources say this could not happen without a U.N. permission.

Mr. Abu Hassan told reporters that Jordan will organise a Jordanian medical week in Baghdad in March to help Iraqis suffering under sanctions.

Doctors will carry out complicated surgeries and give lectures.

"This will be an opportunity to extend humanitarian services to Iraqi people," said Mr. Abu Hassan.

The team met with the Iraqi central bank governor, several ministers and the chairmen of the Iraqi chambers of industry and trade.

Both sides agreed to continue an exchange of bilateral visits and to coordinate their stands on important economic and trade issues during upcoming conferences worldwide.

## Flow of foreign investment is still below the expected level — IPC

AMMAN (J.T.) — Despite many measures and steps taken by the government to modernise legislations and regulations in order to encourage investments, the flow of foreign investments is still below the expected level, a press release issued Sunday by the Investment Promotion Corporation (IPC) shows.

The report attributes the low volume to the small size of the local market, the lack of raw material resources, the unchanged procedures to obtain approvals, and the non-availability of comprehensive information centres.

Other reasons mentioned were the low volume of invested capital, the low level of technological know-how and the low volume of funds allocated for research and development which reached 0.28 per cent of Gross Domestic Product.

The report detailed the IPC's achievements during 1997 by highlighting that 191 projects benefited from the incentives of the new investment promotion law. The projects invested a total of JD 350.9 million, registering a 6.4 per cent increase over the 1996 amount which stood at JD 329.8 million.

According to the report, the projects were spread as follows: 147 industrial projects with an investment volume of JD 211.2 million, 32 hotel projects carrying an investment volume of JD 108.5 million, 10 agricultural projects with an investment volume of

JD 21.5 million, one project in the transportation sector with an investment volume of JD 4.2 million and one hospital project carrying a JD 5.5 million of investment volume.

The report revealed that foreign equity in these projects reached JD 58.3 million, accounting for 16.8 per cent of the overall investment in 1997 compared to 17 per cent during 1996.

Most of the projects were in Zone A as they totalled 117 schemes carrying an investment volume of JD 241.1 million which represented 69 per cent of the overall investment volume. Zone B benefited from 29 projects with an investment volume of JD 36.2 million, representing 10 per cent of the total investments. Zone C housed 44 projects with an investment volume of JD 73.3 million. The amount represented 21 per cent of the overall investment volume.

According to IPC, the number of the registered companies in 1997 stood at 4,294 companies compared to 4,217 in 1996, an increase of 1.8 per cent.

However, the total capital of the companies which were registered in 1997 totalled JD 208.6 million compared to JD 780.2 for 1996.

The IPC has finalised the computerisation measures as well as the auditing and indexing files of the new projects benefiting from the new investment promotion law.

## Russian firms seen needing more protection

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian firms are losing \$1 billion annually owing to Western anti-dumping measures and need more government protection to compete against imports.

First Deputy Prime Minister Boris Nemtsov has said. Interfax news agency said Mr. Nemtsov had called for "rational customs protectionism," which would involve increasing tariffs on finished imported goods and lowering those on imported components.

"Our aim is to protect the interests of Russian manufacturers on both export and domestic markets," Mr. Nemtsov told a new lobby

group of manufacturers called "Buy Russian," at a Moscow factory.

Mr. Nemtsov said Russian firms were losing \$1 billion annually owing to 55 anti-dumping restrictions imposed by Western countries, while not a single anti-dumping investigation had been launched in Russia against a foreign firm.

The revised draft tax code, due to be discussed by the government this week, contains a clause allowing Russian enterprises to claim advertising as production expenses, Mr. Nemtsov said.

## Japan records \$77b trade surplus in '97

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan has announced that its trade surplus in 1997 soared 48.5 per cent to \$77 billion, triggering fears of a backlash from major trading partners to the first annual rise in five years.

The 10,008.3 billion yen (\$77 billion) surplus for the year was bolstered by a 40.9 per cent year-on-year surge in December to 1,238.3 billion yen — the biggest monthly figure since March 1995.

Annual exports climbed 13.9 per cent to a record 50,948.2 billion yen while imports advanced 7.8 per cent to a record 40,939.9 billion yen, the ministry said.

Kanezo Murakami, chief cabinet secretary, said the trade surplus was expanding "due to the weaker yen and other factors but I think it will not last long and it is a temporary phenomenon."

Analysts warned of a sharp reaction from the United States.

But Vice Trade Minister Osamu Watanabe said that "due to the robust U.S. economy there has been no emotional reaction" from Washington similar to that seen in earlier years when Japan's

surplus coincided with a U.S. downturn.

The Japanese surplus was caused by slower import growth due to an economic slump here, Mr. Watanabe said.

U.S. Ambassador Thomas Foley warned Tuesday against the "misconception" that until the U.S. economy began to falter, "the issue of our trade deficit will not be very important in the United States." "I can't put it more bluntly than to say that is dead wrong, dead wrong," he said, urging Japan to open its markets to foreign goods to guard against U.S. "political resentment and reaction" to the trade imbalance.

In 1997, Japan's trade surplus with the United States expanded 41.7 per cent to 5,024.5 billion yen with exports up 16.3 per cent at 14,167.4 billion yen and imports up 5.9 per cent at 9,142.9 billion yen.

In December alone, the surplus with the United States increased 25.4 per cent to 487.2 billion yen on exports of 1,251.6 billion yen, up 16.6 per cent, and imports of 764.3 billion yen, up 11.6 per cent.

"There is going to be lots and lots of red ink between the U.S. and Japan and Europe and Japan," said Kenneth Couris, chief economist and strategist at Deutsche Bank Asia Capital Markets. "You are looking at a U.S. trade deficit by next summer running to a quarter of a trillion dollars — that is going to set off every alarm bell that exists in Congress," he told.

Japan's surplus with the European Union soared 67.3 per cent in 1997 to 2,482.0 billion yen with exports rising 16.0 per cent to 7,941.5 billion yen and imports edging up only 1.8 per cent to 5,459.5 billion yen.

In December alone, it swelled 71.9 per cent to 331.9 billion yen with exports rising 22.5 per cent to 777.4 billion yen and imports edging up 1.0 per cent to 445.5 billion yen.

"Exports in 1997 showed firm growth, supported by the yen's downside and firm economic growth in the United States and Europe," said a finance ministry official, "while the growth of imports slowed."

Private economists said the

overall December surplus was within expectations.

Okasan Research Institute economist Junji Ohta said exports to Southeast Asia were "clearly slowing."

"As a trend, the growth of Japan's trade surplus will continue to slow as exports to Asia cannot be ignored as a major part of overall exports," Mr. Ohta said.

In trade with Asia, the 1997 surplus totalled 6,359.3 billion yen, up 14.4 per cent. Exports gained 8.6 per cent to 21,190.4 billion yen and imports rose 6.2 per cent to 14,831.1 billion yen.

In December alone, the surplus with the rest of Asia edged up 1.8 per cent to 715.1 billion yen with exports up 1.5 per cent at 1,937.4 billion yen and imports up 1.3 per cent at 1,222.3 billion yen.

Nippon Credit Bank economist Yasukazu Shimizu said the rise in the overall trade surplus should slow as the impact of the Asian currency crisis became clearer.

"The impact of the strong yen against Asian currencies should be apparent early this year," he said.

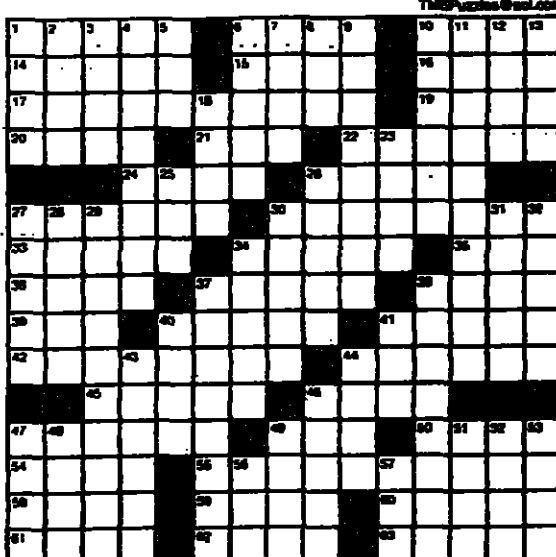
### THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

#### ACROSS

- 1 Outmoded
- 6 Source of sport
- 10 Amateur sports
- 14 Paradigm
- 15 "Well That Ends Well"
- 17 Jeff MacNelly, e.g.
- 19 Coverlet
- 20 Dendritic
- 21 Oyster farm
- 22 Ornamental tree with pods
- 24 Run wild
- 26 Screen personas
- 27 Author of "Couples"
- 30 Dave Barry, e.g.
- 33 "Water Lilies" painter
- 35 Ford or Dodge
- 36 End of demo?
- 37 Bides time
- 38 Snow wrinkle
- 39 8 dispenser
- 40 Authority to decide
- 41 Vesicles
- 42 David, e.g.
- 44 Abe of the Supreme Court
- 45 Riddle
- 46 Asian desert
- 47 Cleaves
- 48 Gout up
- 50 Example
- 54 Marrow piece
- 55 Jack Germond and Andy Rooney, e.g.
- 58 End of cigar?
- 59 Setting of "The Plague"
- 60 Sen. Kefauver
- 61 Actor Parker
- 62 Teepee or yurt
- 63 Make amends

#### DOWN

- 1 Printer's measure
- 2 Man with an apple



By Roger Junggren  
Polkoma, MD

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3 Cross's neighbor

4 Jonathan Swift, e.g.

5 "Do Ya" grp.

6 Article of faith

7 Corrosive stuff

8 S.O. at al.

9 Results

10 Former

11 Egyptian leader

12 High pret.

13 Sailing

14 Heutboy

15 Plently

16 Elanower

25 Approach quickly

27 Prepare to use

28 Steps for ships

29 O'Neill and

30 Lifting device

31 Catalina

32 Lock or shock

34 Might, old-style

37 Wall trim

38 Ira Gershwin, e.g.

40 Complacent

41 Corn holder

43 Knights

45 Being: Latin

56 Baude or

58 Baude or

59 Teaching grp.

60 B-G separation

61 Spiced vigor

62 Concerning

63 Across: Anna

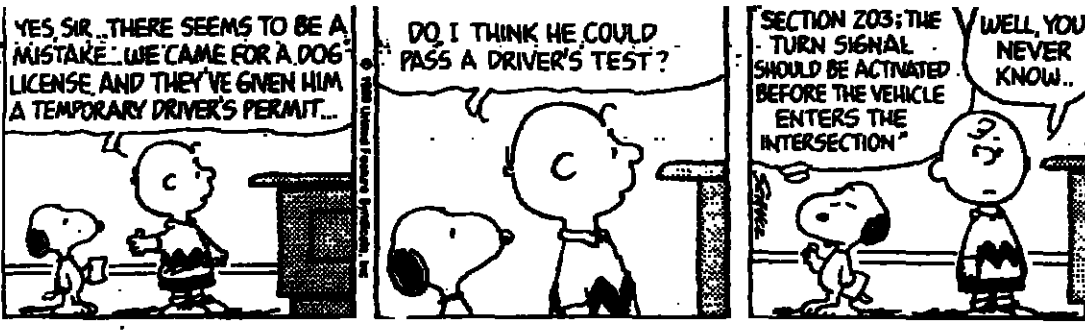
64 Being: Latin

65 Baude or

66 Baude or

67 Teaching grp.

### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



### Mutt'n'Jeff



## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 1998

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Have you thought about going back to school? Call the university and ask some probing questions. What are the entrance requirements? How much does it cost? When does the next semester start? You're usually brave, but this may have you cowering in your boots. You don't have to do it by yourself. A friend would be more than happy to help.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) There'll be a hassle. This time, it's you who can't see the obvious answer. Get someone to help you see what you're missing. The best counselor for you will be ruthlessly honest. Pick this person out on purpose. Otherwise, your adversary might, and then you'd be at even more of a disadvantage.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) You're confident and self-assured, and a little calmer. Be careful travelling this afternoon, however. There could be a hassle on the highway. You might get there more quickly if you take surface streets. Finding your way around town could turn out to be a lot of fun. Let your curiosity be your guide.

**CANCER:** (June 22 to July 21) You like to buy things for other people, and you can always justify that. When it comes to buying for yourself, however, it's a different story. Well, why don't you look over the situation with a different perspective? If you've worked hard lately and you deserve a treat, go out and get yourself one.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) This is a better day for you. Yesterday, frustrations were wearing you a little thin. Now you're getting back in control. There's still a lot to do, but most of the worst stuff is already scratched off your list. Give work your full attention for a little while longer — another week, to be exact.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 21) Someone new is giving you an assignment. He or she is not in the direct chain of command over you, so why should you do it? Well, it'll make you look good to a rival. Your influence will spread and so will your fame and fortune. Besides, you're a nice person, so go ahead and do it.

**LIBRA:** (September 22 to October 21) An older person might handle part of your responsibilities for you. All you have to do is follow directions. You're putting yourself in the right spot to get the coaching you need. That shows maturity. There's no reason you have to know everything. All you have to know is how to find the person who does know everything.

**SCORPIO:** (October 22 to November 21) An older person has your agenda figured out today. This might bring in more money than you thought. One of the hardest parts of the job will be keeping your mouth shut when you see a mistake in progress. Well, maybe you shouldn't. There's a way you can point this out nicely, isn't there?

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Your opportunity to travel has shown up already. You can think of all sorts of places you'd like to go. You're probably not in a financial position to do the top one on your list, though. Take your date to the most exotic location you can find for lunch and you'll be pleasantly surprised.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) If there's not enough money in your account, it's a good day to ask for a loan. You'd rather pay cash up-front for everything. In this situation, however, it might be best to borrow. You'll be able to do something you wouldn't have been able to do otherwise. Don't worry. You'll make the money to pay it back.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) The moon's in Leo, across the Zodiac from Aquarius. Leo is the builder and Aquarius is the planner. If you don't have a person like that in your life, find one today. After you meet and make your amenities, decide what to build next. Review the possibilities this afternoon and make the decision this evening or tomorrow.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Lots of things need to be done at work, and can't be put off any longer. You might get a new assignment around the middle of the day. Either it's something you don't want to do or else it's in your job description. But you'll make extra money if you can handle it anyway. Are you up for the challenge?

Birthstone of January: Garnet — Rose Quartz

### THE BETTER HALF, By Glasbergen



"The secret to lasting romance is knowing how to keep him interested. Before we kiss, I gargle with beef gravy."

### JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

First three letters are given.

Print answer here: HSS

Yesterday's Jumbles: BRAVE, THYME, DEPICT, PLEDGE.

Answer: Actors and children have this in common — "PLAY TIME"

(Answers tomorrow)

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: HSS

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# Australian Open

## Sampras beats Arazzi to reach quarters; Davenport advances to meet Williams

MELBOURNE (AFP) — Pete Sampras reached the Australian Open quarter final on Sunday without losing a set in a week of Grand Slam tennis, while the battle intensified for the women's title.

The World No. 1 fought his first tie break of the week in his fourth round against Hicham Arazzi of Morocco.

With rain restricting play to the covered centre court, the World No. 47 led Sampras a merry song and dance for a while, but Sampras came through 7-6 (11/9), 6-4, 6-4.

All four of his matches have been in three sets and most of them a lot quicker than the two hours and seven minutes it took to beat Arazzi.

His next opponent is in-form Slovak, Karol Kucera, who won the Sydney tournament last week and reached the quarter-finals on Sunday night by beating Australia's Richard Fromberg 6-2, 3-6, 6-2, 7-5.

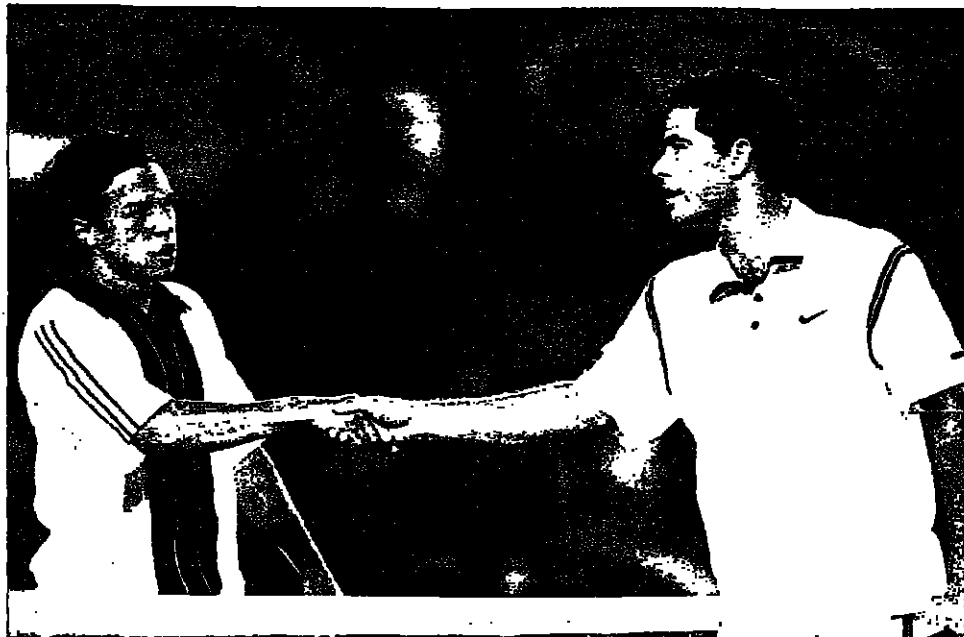
Also through are No. 4 seed Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden, who beat Byron Black of Zimbabwe 6-2, 6-1, 6-4. Bjorkman plays No. 6 seed Petr Korda of the Czech Republic, who saw off Frenchman Cedric Pioline 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.

In the tough women's battle, No. 2 seed Lindsay Davenport crushed Romanian 15th seed Ruxandra Dragomir 6-0, 6-0.

Her quarter final opponent will be Venus Williams, unseeded but heavily backed by the bookies, who beat Patty Schnyder of Switzerland 6-4, 6-1, and insisted she had no faults to correct.

Sampras admitted he was surprised by the live-wire game of Arazzi, who knocked out Australian 15th seed Mark Philippoussis in the second round and had a set point against the defending champion.

"I thought he was one of the quickest guys I have ever played," said Sampras in tribute to his Moroccan



Defending champion and World No. 1 Pete Sampras (R) of the United States is congratulated by Hicham Arazzi (L) of Morocco after their fourth round match at the Australian Open in Melbourne January 25. Sampras defeated Arazzi in straight sets 7-6 (11-9) 6-4 6-4 (Reuters photo)

opponent. "I was surprised by the way he served a lot of aces, a lot of service winners. I thought I was hitting some big shots. I had him on the

ropes, and he came up with some huge winners."

Sampras said he could see former No. 1 Andre Agassi looming as the main challenger from the other half of

the draw. Agassi, who has made a stunning comeback at the Open, plays Alberto Berasategui of Spain in his fourth round on Monday. Venus Williams stormed

into the last eight of the tight battle for the women's title and insisted she had no weaknesses to worry about.

The 17-year-old out-classed Patty Schnyder of Switzerland 6-4, 6-1 in 54 minutes.

Meticulous preparation over the past year with her father and coach Richard Williams is starting to pay dividends for the brash youngster, who lost to world number one Martina Hingis in the final of last year's U.S. Open but beat her last week in Sydney.

Davenport thought her 48 minute demolition of Dragomir had been her first without losing a game. And she admitted it was not ideal preparation for her quarter-final with Williams.

"Venus hits the ball a lot harder than anybody I've played against so far this tournament so I'll definitely have to practise tomorrow and tell my coach to crank it up a bit," said Davenport.

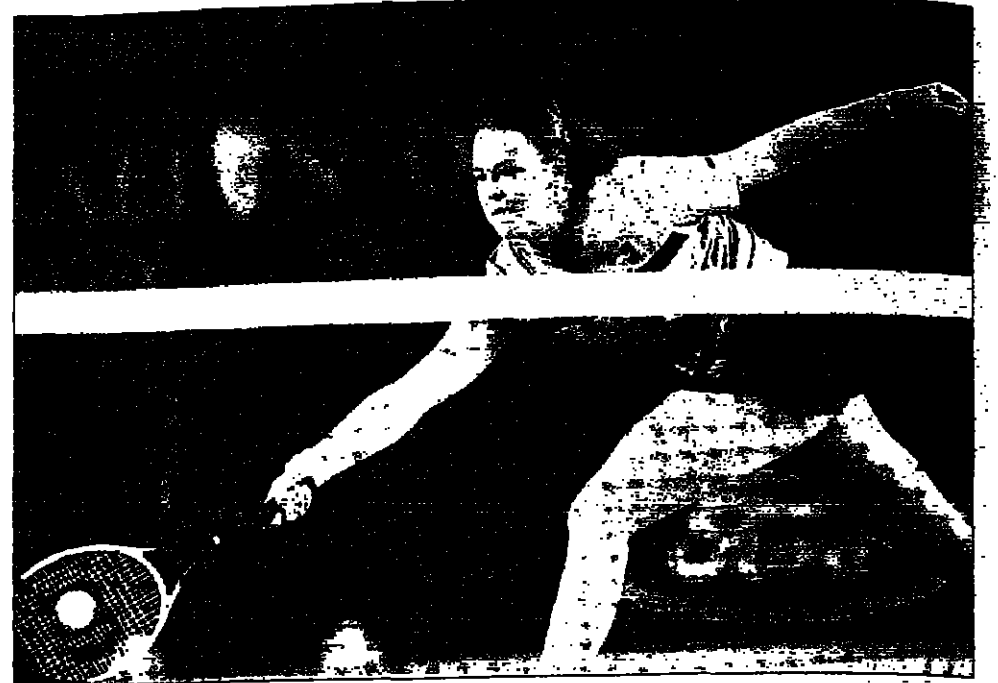
"It's going to be an extremely tough match on Tuesday, there are still a couple of doubters of my game out there, but I'll be trying to make it to the semis."

Only centre court matches were able to be played as rain wrecked scheduling on outside courts following a heavy rainstorm early Sunday and lingering rain throughout the day.

Organisers switched Bjorkman's encounter with Black and Kucera against Fromberg from outside courts to the weather-protected centre court.

Several matches had to be held over to Monday, including the women's fourth round ties between Tamarine Tanasugarn of Thailand and French ninth seed Sandrine Testud, and eighth seed Conchita Martinez of Spain against Barbara Schett of Austria.

Women's No. 1 Martina Hingis of Switzerland must try to secure her quarter final place against Indonesian giantkiller Yayuk Basuki on Monday.



Lindsay Davenport of the United States stretches for a volley at the net during her fourth round match against Romania's Ruxandra Dragomir at the Australian Open in Melbourne. Davenport, the number two seed, won in straight sets 6-0, 6-0 (Reuters photo)



Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman celebrates after winning a point during his fourth round match against Zimbabwe's Byron Black at the Australian Open in Melbourne January 25. Bjorkman won in straight sets 6-2 6-1 6-4 (Reuters photo)

## CBS squeezes into Japan

NAGANO (AFP) — Darcy Antonellis was pushing a revolving sutra holder at a 1,400-year-old Buddhist temple here, praying for no more headaches just weeks ahead of the Winter Olympics.

"I prayed for good weather and good competition," smiled the CBS vice-president.

The U.S. network has cleared some major hurdles in organising its Olympic coverage — resistance from Buddhist monks and the raucous narrow Japanese roads, for example.

Antonellis's good luck gesture shows how CBS have left nothing to chance regarding its biggest ever investment in the Winter Games — some \$800 million including a record payout of \$375 million in television money.

CBS has set up an unprecedented three-storey anchor studio on the treasured ground of the temple, Zenkoji.

It is also set to move 21-metre-long mobile relay broadcasting units here in the

final week of this month — through carefully chosen routes after their arrival at Yokohama Port from the U.S. West Coast.

The network needed special permission from transport authorities to move the 10 gigantic vehicles whose size exceeds local limits.

The units are each 2.6 metres wide, too much for most Japanese roads — vehicles are not usually allowed on the roads if their width exceeds half that of the highway.

Antonellis said CBS had tested the routes, including the new Tokyo-Nagano highway and "Olympic roads" linking venues scattered in this Japanese Alps region, some 200 kilometers north-west of Tokyo.

She said it would be difficult to reach speed and figure skating rinks and that a twisty access road to the ski-jumping site in Hakuba, 45 kilometers to the west, would be "more challenging, like a slalom."

It took almost three years for CBS to persuade Zenkoji,

the centerpiece of this city of 360,000 people, to let the network set up a studio and use the temple as a backdrop for its prime-time Olympic show back home.

"Naturally, some of us said the idea was out of the question," said the temple's chief executive Shuei Wakaomi. "It will change Zenkoji's everyday appearance."

"But our temple has treasured its tradition but also it has been always open to all kinds of people," said the 58-year-old senior priest.

For centuries, Zenkoji has been non-sectarian and open to women when other Buddhist holy places were not. Its so-called "key to paradise" draws seven million visitors every year.

A deal was finally struck last summer to allow CBS to erect a 15-metre tall building on the edge the temple grounds. A glassed-in studio on its top floor glares at the main hall from behind trees — like a monster with giant eyes.

Zenkoji will receive no financial or material rewards

## How TV rights have soared

NAGANO (AFP) — The cost of television rights has rocketed since the first Winter Olympics in 1960.

Then, U.S. network CBS paid just \$50,000 for the right to broadcast the Games. Thirty-eight years later, that figure has soared to over half a billion dollars.

The following table charts the progression:

Winter Games	Summer Games
1960 Squaw Valley \$50,000	Rome \$1,178,257
1964 Innsbruck \$936,667	Tokyo \$1,577,778
1968 Grenoble \$2,612,822	Mexico \$9,750,000
1972 Sapporo \$8,475,269	Munich \$17,792,000
1976 Innsbruck \$11,627,330	Montreal \$34,862,200
1980 Lake Placid \$20,725,827	Moscow \$87,984,117
	Los Angeles \$286,314,000
1984 Sarajevo \$102,681,750	Seoul \$398,710,000
1988 Calgary \$325,340,000	Barcelona \$636,060,000
1992 Albertville \$294,000,000	
1994 Lillehammer \$350,000,000	Atlanta \$896,952,500
1996 —	
1998 Nagano \$513,137,000	

for hosting CBS, but they would be repaid by "invisible merits" such as the international exposure, temple spokesman Atsushi Kinahara said.

The language barrier remains the biggest problem for the network's team of 1,700 people.

They are now equipped with cultural guide books after CBS Sports executive

producer Rick Gentile's recent experience.

During a dinner with senior monks in the final phase of talks on the studio, he described them as "sophisticated in terms of knowledge of marketing."

The statement was mis-translated to imply they were businessmen. "The monks were somewhat insulted," said Gentile.

## Two dailies banned for revealing Olympic dress rehearsal

NAGANO (AFP) — Two Japanese newspapers were stripped of their access privileges Sunday for the Nagano Winter Olympics venues for laying bare a dress rehearsal for the Games opening ceremony on February 7.

The nationally circulated Sankei Shimbun and its sister daily, Sankei Sports, on Sunday carried reports and pictures detailing the process of igniting the Olympic flame cauldron at the rehearsal the previous day.

All members of the two dailies were ordered to return their Olympic accreditation cards to the Nagano organising committee (NAOC) and leave the main press centre.

The ban will remain in effect until the NAOC and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) press commission review the case on Wednesday. NAOC media chief Ko Yamaguchi told a news conference.

Some 2,800 journalists and photographers from 700 media organisations are expected to cover the 16-day gala.

But big features of the opening ceremony, including the final runner of the torch relay — 1989 world figure skating champion Midori Ito — have been revealed by the show's producers, raising eyebrows among IOC traditionalists.

On January 16, the NAOC requested media organisations to refrain from divulging proceedings of the rehearsal and

such details inside the ceremony venue as stage decorations and props.

The committee also warned that any violation of the guidelines would be subject to sanction in accordance with IOC's rules on media coverage.

"As for coverage of the opening ceremony, you are requested to refrain from advance reporting so that excitement of the event can be shared by all," Yamaguchi said.

"It is regrettable that unacceptable articles and pictures of the rehearsal have been published," he added.

Tsutomu Saito, deputy chief of the Sankei Shimbun's team for Olympic coverage in Nagano, said his company needed more time to ascertain facts and consult with the NAOC on the incident. "We cannot make any specific comment at the moment," he said.

A similar problem cropped up at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta when the Atlanta Journal-Constitution published photos and detailed stories of a opening ceremony dress rehearsal.

The act violated guidelines set by organisers but no punitive action was taken.

TODAY AT	CINEMA TEL: 634144 PHILADELPHIA "1"	CINEMA TEL: 634144 PHILADELPHIA "2"	CINEMA TEL: 699238 PLAZA	CINEMA TEL: 677420 CONCORD	CINEMA TEL: 079 33430 GALLERIA 2	CINEMA TEL: 079 33430 GALLERIA 1	Hisham Yanes Theatre TEL: 625155
	George Clooney Nicole Kidman .. in THE PEACEMAKER	BULLET PROOF	SCREAM Shows: 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD "1" Nadya Al Jundi, Ahmad Bedeir & Nahla Salameh...in RIDING HIGH	ABDOUN Robin Williams .. in JACK	ABDOUN ROMEO & JULIET	NOW ON DAILY THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SERVICE OF PEOPLE
	Shows: 12:30, 2:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	Shows: 12:30, 2:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	BEVERLY HILLS NINJA Shows: 12:00 2:00, 6:30	Shows: 12:15, 2:15, 6:15, 8:15, 10:30	Shows: 2:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	Shows: 2:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:45	Starring Hisham Yanes and Amal Dabbas
				CONCORD "2" MR. BEAN Shows: 6:30, 8:30, 10:30			For reservations call: 640155, 625155



## SCOREBOARD

French League			
Metz	0	Bastia	1
Rennes	2	Cannes	0
Paris SG	0	Le Havre	2
Toulouse	1	Lens	2
Chateauroux	0	Marseille	3
Monaco	4	Montpellier	0
Bordeaux	4	Strasbourg	4

Scottish FA Cup 3rd round			
Airdrie	2	Ross County	2
Alloa	0	Ayr	3
Celtic	2	Greenock Morton	0
Dumbarton	1	Motherwell	1
Dundee Utd	1	Aberdeen	0
Dunfermline	7	Edinburgh City	2
Hamilton	1	Rangers	2
Hearts	2	Clydebank	0
Hibernian	1	Raith	2
Inverness Cal.	8	Annan Ath	1
Livingston	3	Albion	3
Queen of South	1	Stirling	3
St Johnstone	1	Partick	0
Stenhousemuir	1	Falkirk	3
Stranraer	0	Kilmarnock	2

English FA Cup 4th round			
Aston Villa	4	WBA	0
Birmingham	2	Stockport	1
Cardiff	1	Reading	1
Charlton	1	Wolverhampton	1
Coventry	2	Derby	0
Crystal Palace	3	Leicester	0
Huddersfield	0	Wimbledon	1
Ipswich	1	Sheff Utd	1
Leeds	2	Grimsby	0
Man Utd	5	Walsall	1
Middlesbrough	1	Arsenal	2
Tottenham	1	Barnsley	1
Tranmere	1	Sunderland	0

English Football League			
English Division One			
Bradford	1	Swindon	1
Oxford Utd	1	Portsmouth	0
Port Vale	2	Crewe	3
QPR	0	Nottm Forest	1
English Division Two			
Bournemouth	0	Oldham	0
Brentford	1	Watford	2
Bristol City	0	Northampton	0
Burnley	1	Southend	0
Carlisle	3	Bristol Rovers	1
Colton	1	Fulham	4
Plymouth	3	Wigan	2
Preston	0	Chesterfield	0
Wycombe	2	Blackpool	1
York	2	Millwall	3
English Division Three			
Barnet	3	Colchester	2
Brighton	1	Scarborough	1
Cambridge Utd	1	Chester	2
Darlington	3	Exeter	2
Doncaster	0	Macclesfield	3
Hartlepool	0	Rotherham	0
Hull	3	Peterborough	1
Lincoln City	3	Notts County	5
Rochdale	0	Leyton Orient	2
Scunthorpe	1	Swansea	0
Torquay	3	Shrewsbury	0

Belgian League			
Westerlo	2	FC Brugge	2
Ghent	0	Mouscron	0
Standard Liege	2	Charleroi	0
Genk	1	Lokeren	0
Lierse	1	Ekeren	1
Antwerp	1	Aalst	1

Spanish League			
Atletico Madrid	3	Athletic Bilbao	0

Portugeuses League			
Campomaiorense	1	Benfica	2

NBA			
Toronto	113	Minnesota	107
New York	99	Detroit	92
Seattle	101	LA Lakers	95
Indiana	95	Boston	88
Washington	104	New Jersey	87
Portland	92	Atlanta	77
Cleveland	111	Philadelphia	92
Charlotte	94	Dallas	92
Houston	112	San Antonio	87
Milwaukee	101	Sacramento	97
Vancouver	107	Golden State	96
Denver	99	LA Clippers	81



Robert Pires of Metz (Top) jumps over Morlaye Soumah of Bastia in their French soccer league match at the Metz Saint Symphorien Stadium. Metz lost 1-0 but are the current leader of the championship with Bastia being ninth placed (Reuters photo)

## Knicks, Pacers win; Blazers beat Hawks

SEATTLE (AP) — The Seattle Supersonics and the Los Angeles Lakers may be closer than their records show.

The Pacific Division rivals with the National Basketball Association's two best records met for the first time Saturday and the difference was the Sonics' maturity and poise down the stretch of the 101-95 win.

Shaquille O'Neal had 30 points, 12 rebounds and five blocked shots and Eddie Jones poured in 23 points on 9-for-19 shooting, but the Sonics got two free throws each from veterans Hersey Hawkins and Detlef Schrempf in the final 17.1 seconds.

Vin Baker had 23 points, Gary Payton 20 and Schrempf 19 for Seattle. Dale Ellis scored 17 points off the bench for the Sonics.

New York Knicks 99, Detroit Pistons 92: In the Detroit suburb of Auburn Hills, Charles Oakley scored seven of his 17 points in the fourth quarter to lead New York.

Oakley led six Knicks in double figures, helping New York overcome 35 points from Jerry Stackhouse. Larry Johnson and John Starks had 16 each and Chris Childs had 15 for New York. Hill had 20 points, eight rebounds and seven assists.

Toronto Raptors 113, Minnesota Timberwolves 107, OT: At Toronto, Doug Christie scored 31 points and Damon Stoudamire added 21 points and 10 assists, leading as Toronto ended Minnesota's seven-game winning streak.

Christie was 7-for-7 from the start of the fourth quarter, helping Toronto overcome an early 19-point deficit. Oliver Miller added 18 points, 12 rebounds and seven assists.

Tom Gugliotta led the Timberwolves with 25 points, 13 rebounds and seven assists. Stephon Marbury had 18 points and nine assists, and Cherokee Parks added 15 points and 12 rebounds.

Indiana Pacers 95, Boston Celtics 88: At Indianapolis, Reggie Miller scored 23 of his 32 points in the second half as Indiana overcame a 17-point deficit to defeat Boston.

It was the second consecutive night Indiana won after overcoming a double-digit deficit in the second half.

Boston, which led by 17 in the second quarter and 10 early in the third, lost the lead for good when it went more than four minutes without a basket in the final period.

Rik Smits finished with 15 points and a season-high 15 rebounds and Chris Mullin contributed 17 points to the victory.

Antoine Walker led Boston with 22 points and 16 rebounds.

Cleveland Cavaliers 111,

Philadelphia 76ers 92: At Cleveland, Brevin Knight tied the NBA season-high with eight steals and shut down Allen Iverson as the Cavaliers beat Philadelphia.

Iverson, who scored 50 in a game at Gund arena late last year, was held to eight points on 2-of-9 shooting with nine assists — delighting the second sellout crowd of the season at Gund Arena.

Cleveland shot 54 per cent and had seven double-figure scorers. Wesley Person had 17, while Zydrunas Ilgauskas and Cedric Henderson each had 16.

Theo Ratliff led Philadelphia with 21 points and Derrick Coleman had seven points and 13 rebounds.

Portland Trail Blazers 92, Atlanta Hawks 77: At Atlanta, Isaiah Rider scored 28 points and Portland defeated Atlanta for the first time in more than three years.

Portland, ending its current road trip 3-1, had lost six in a row to the Hawks since Jan. 3, 1995. The Blazers have won five of their last six games, while Atlanta has lost three in a row.

Gary Trent added 21 points and 11 rebounds and Rasheed Wallace had 18 points and eight rebounds for Portland, which was playing its fourth game in five nights.

Christian Laettner led Atlanta with 16 points. Atlanta shot just 32.9 per cent overall and was 1-for-12 from 3-point range.

Washington Wizards 104, New Jersey Nets 87: At Washington, Chris Webber scored 22 points and Washington took control with a 22-1 run in the first quarter.

After starting 1-for-6, Webber scored 10 points in the first quarter and finished with 20 or more points for the 14th consecutive game.

The Wizards, completing a 3-3 homestand, once again moved over the .500 mark with a tough road swing through Indiana, Boston and Detroit up next.

Juwan Howard added 20 points for Washington, while Kerry Kinles had 21 points to lead New Jersey.

## Man. United and Arsenal move to FA Cup 5th round

LONDON (AFP) — Premiership big guns Manchester United and Arsenal emerged with their reputations intact following Saturday's matches in the fourth round of the English FA Cup.

United thrashed second division Walsall 5-1 at Old Trafford while Arsenal held on to win 2-1 at first division promotion hopefuls Middlesbrough.

Other Premiership sides to join them in the fifth round were Aston Villa, Leeds, Coventry, Wimbledon and Crystal Palace.

Walsall went behind at Old Trafford after only 10 minutes. Andy Cole firing in his 19th goal of the season for the English champions.

Norwegian Ole Gunnar Solskjaer ended the match as contest with United's second six minutes before the break.

Cole grabbed another after 65 minutes and Solskjaer sealed an easy victory by sidefooting his second and United's fourth four minutes later. Roger Boli, brother of former French international Basile Boli, grabbed a consolation goal for Walsall after 72 minutes but almost immedi-

ately United defender Ronnie Johnsen made it 5-1 to complete the rout.

Dutchman Marc Overmars shocked Middlesbrough with a goal after just 68 seconds at the Riverside.

Ray Parlour made it two following fine work from Frenchman Nicolas Anelka soon after.

Former Arsenal player Paul Merson pulled one back for 'Boro midway through the second half but Dane Mikkel Beck missed a late chance to earn Bryan Robson's side a replay.

Sol Campbell put Tottenham in front after half an hour against fellow Premiership battlers Barnsley at White Hart Lane.

But Neil Redfearn's penalty soon after the interval put the Yorkshiremen level and they held on to earn a deserved replay.

Bruce Dyer, who had only four goals to his name this season before Saturday, fired a hat-trick to give Crystal Palace a 3-0 win over visiting Leicester at Selhurst Park.

Two Dion Dublin strikes in the space of seven minutes before half-time secured a 2-0 victory for

Coventry at home to Derby in another all-Premiership clash.

Robert Molenaar put Leeds ahead against second division Grimsby on the stroke of half-time.

Jimmy Hasselbaink made it a double Dutch treat for the Premiership side with a fine second goal 11 minutes from time as Leeds won 2-0.

Second-half goals from Dwight Yorke (twice) and Stan Collymore helped Aston Villa overcome West Midlands rivals West Brom 4-0 at Villa Park. Simon Grayson had opened the scoring for Brian Little's men after just four minutes.

Elsewhere, Neal Ardley's fierce shot for Wimbledon after 62 minutes put paid to first division hosts Huddersfield, while Birmingham needed a last-minute goal to beat nine-man visitors Stockport 2-1.

First division Sunderland's 17-match unbeaten run went in a 1-0 defeat at Tranmere and third division strugglers Cardiff held first division Reading 1-1.

The matches between Charlton and Wolves and Ipswich and Sheffield United finished 1-1.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

## Vieira slams Iranians over removal

TEHERAN (AFP) — Valdeir Vieira, who took Iran to the World Cup finals at Australia's expense before being replaced last week, on Saturday slammed the Iranian federation, saying he was owed money and was being treated as a non person. "Not only are they not respecting the terms of my contract but now they do not even acknowledge my existence," Valdeir told AFP, adding that he hasn't even been paid yet. The Brazilian said he would be looking for FIFA's support and had formally complained to the Iranian federation, who he said act as if I just do not exist." He denied Iranian media claims that he had been replaced because he had no long term programme for the squad. Vieira was replaced by Croat Tomislav Ivic, formerly coach of Croatia and United Arab Emirates coach. Ivic will lead the Iranians this summer in their second World Cup campaign following their 1978 debut in Argentina.

## Middlesbrough duped in Juninho payment row

LONDON (AFP) — English first division side Middlesbrough were duped into handing over a £798,000 payment to Brazilian star Juninho's agents, according to a report in today's News of the World. The paper claims the money went to agents Antonio Caliendo and Paurizia Pighini instead of to the player, who left Middlesbrough after they were relegated. He now plays for Atletico Madrid.

## Wegerle sends U.S. past Sweden

ORLANDO (AFP) — Roy Wegerle scored off a pass from Joe-Max Moore after just 90 seconds on Saturday as the United States beat Sweden 1-0 in a friendly tune-up for next month's Gold Cup. Moore lofted a pass over a Swedish defender to the onrushing Wegerle, who ran through middle, dribbled around Sweden's sprawled goalkeeper and slapped in a left-footed shot. The U.S. team, who have qualified for the World Cup final, dominated a

young Swedish side in preparation for next month's Gold Cup, which features North American rivals plus reigning World Cup champion Brazil.

## Villeneuve: Schumacher has mental problems

BONN (AFP) — Formula One world champion Jacques Villeneuve has launched a searing attack on bitter rival Michael Schumacher, accusing the German of freezing mentally when the going gets tough. "Under stress, Schumacher stops thinking and only reacts — that's when he shows his character in its true light," Villeneuve told the Welt am Sonntag weekly. The Canadian said he had no time for his Ferrari rival, who was stripped of second place in last year's championship after crashing into Villeneuve's Williams at the season-ending European Grand Prix in Jerez last October. "I'm not interested in getting to know him better," Villeneuve stormed. "He lives his life his way and I can't relate to anything he does." Villeneuve and Schumacher will next lock horns at this season's opening Grand Prix of the season in Melbourne, Australia on March 8.

## Cantona returns to United

LONDON (AFP) — Frenchman Eric Cantona is set to return to Old Trafford next month to play in a special exhibition match to mark the 40th anniversary of the Munich air disaster. He is expected to captain an international team against his former teammates of Manchester United according to a report in the Sunday People. Cantona sensationally quit United last May and went into retirement.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH

## WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:	410752 CA 52 Q10432 +10
AAQJ109 KRQ9 SA8 AKQ2	The bidding has proceeded:
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?	NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
	1A Pass 10 Pass
	1C Pass 7 Pass
	What action do you take?
Q.2 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:	Q.5 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
AAK4 KR1092 QAK 47652	4742 QAK5 Q10972 +J2
The bidding has proceeded:	The bidding has proceeded:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST	NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1NT Pass 3C Pass	1A Pass 10 Pass
What do you bid now?	1NT Pass 7 Pass
	What action do you take?
Q.3 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:	Q.6 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
AA2 KR107 054 AAQJ1078	AK987645 CA 08 46543
The bidding has proceeded:	The bidding has proceeded:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST	NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1NT 10 7	1A Pass 10 Pass
What action do you take?	1C Pass 7 Pass
	What do you bid now?
Q.4 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:	

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The tender documents are available at JPMC offices in Amman, Supply Department. Application for documents should be accompanied by a non-refundable fee of JD(200) for each set of tender documents.

The closing date for submitting bids is 12:00 hours local time Tuesday, February 10, 1998.

Sameh Madani  
Managing Director

## Announcement



On the occasion of its 30th anniversary, Jordan Television is holding a contest for best logo design for this special occasion. The winning logo will be chosen by a committee from Jordan Television, and the winner will receive acknowledgment on television and also will receive a prize.

## Contest requirements:

- 1- Colour design printed on A4 paper.
- 2- Story board for a Full animation sequence.

Designs to be delivered to Marketing & Commercial Advertising Department  
Jabal Amman - 2nd circle Tel # 642211 & 642212.

Deadline for receiving the designs is Feb. 15, 1998



## Iraqis sign up for military training as speculation mounts of U.S. strike

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraqis began signing up for military training in droves on Sunday as a British aircraft carrier joined a powerful U.S. military task force in the Gulf amid mounting speculation of a possible U.S. strike.

Iraq accused the United States of waging a campaign of lies to prepare for an attack in a bid to divert attention from the sex scandal engulfing U.S. President Bill Clinton.

"By waging a bitter campaign of lies against Iraq, the American administration is preparing international opinion to accept a unilateral military operation against the Iraqis," wrote Al Thawra, the newspaper of the ruling Baath Party.

Iraqi men and women are already answering a call by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and signing up for military training to prepare for any U.S. strike, ahead of the Feb. 1 deadline for volunteers, the paper said.

"Many Iraqis have started to flock to party offices in Baghdad and the provinces to enrol, one week before the set date," the paper said.

Mr. Hussein ordered the "mobilisation" on Jan. 17 in order "to recruit as many people for training as possible" following his threat to give U.N. arms inspectors a six-month ultimatum to leave Baghdad.

Top Iraqi officials met Saturday to finalise prepara-

tions for the mass training of an expected one million volunteers, and army officers will be supervising training in light weapons later Sunday, officials said.

"We must be ready for any eventuality and our mobilisation to confront America and Zionism is a great honour," wrote official newspaper Al Iraq.

While President Bill Clinton struggled to clear his name, his top security advisors were working on a new strategy for responding to the U.N.-Iraq crisis.

White House Spokesman Eric Rubin said on Saturday that Mr. Clinton may call allies later to discuss the matter and would not rule out the use of force to end the three-month crisis over Iraq's suspected weapons of mass destruction.

On Friday, Richard Butler, chairman of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) on disarming Iraq, warned the 15-member U.N. Security Council of Iraq's apparent policy decision to end all cooperation with U.N. monitors.

Mr. Butler ended a 48-hour visit last week after failing to persuade Iraq to allow UNSCOM inspectors full and unconditional access to suspected weapons sites, particularly presidential sites, which Baghdad has refused on the grounds of sovereignty.

Under U.N. resolutions, the

UNSCOM inspectors must verify the total destruction of all Iraqi nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and long-range missiles before sanctions imposed after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait can be lifted.

Official Iraqi newspaper Al Jumhuriya accused Mr. Butler of contributing to the hostile American campaign.

"It is obvious that Butler is more allied to the Americans than his predecessor Rolf Ekus, and with his stance he is feeding this campaign aimed at lifting the internal pressure on the American president, who is confronted by sex scandals and at the same time preparing for military action," it said.

U.S. investigators have alleged that Mr. Clinton had an affair with Monica Lewinsky, a young White House aide, then pressured her to deny the affair in court. Mr. Clinton has vehemently denied both the affair and the perjury allegations.

"Israel, the Zionist lobby and American industrialists are acting in concert to push Clinton to commit a new crime against Iraq," wrote Al Jumhuriya.

The Washington Post reported Saturday that Mr. Clinton has concluded that a peaceful solution is unlikely and was close to a military strike.

But Iraqi official newspaper Al Qadisiya responded: "Iraq is sufficiently prepared to repel all attacks."



ONE BILL IN EXCHANGE FOR MANY: Hameed Swadi, left, 68, exchanges a hundred dollar bill in Baghdad on Sunday. The hundred dollar bill will bring Swadi about 164,000 Iraqi dinars for him to buy some of the family's needs which mainly consist of clothing and food (AP photo)

## Palestinians reject Israeli demand for new meeting on PLO Charter

RAMALLAH (AFP) — The head of the Palestine National Council (PNC) on Sunday rejected Israeli demands for a meeting to wipe out references to the destruction of the Jewish state in the PLO charter.

"The Palestine National Council has already taken a decision to amend the charter," Salim Zaanun said in an interview in Palestinian newspaper Al Ayyam.

"We don't see any need for the council to meet again on the issue," said Mr. Zaanun, although he did not rule out a meeting by the PLO Executive Committee.

"There is no need for the PNC to interpret its decision because it's clear, but the PLO Executive Committee can do," he said.

The Palestine National Council, considered the PLO's "parliament," met in April 1996 and made a general declaration that all clauses in the 1968 charter which contradicted the peace process were annulled.

That was enough to satisfy Israel's then Prime Minister Shimon Peres. But current Premier Benjamin Netanyahu has demanded the PNC meet

again to eliminate references in the charter to Israel's destruction individually. He has made the move one of a number of preconditions for Israeli implementation of an overdue troop withdrawal in the West Bank.

"We are not demanding the rewriting of a new charter but that the PNC stipulates which articles are being annulled from its existing charter," said Mr. Netanyahu's spokesman David Bar-Ilan.

His government's rejection of "clarifications" on the issue made by

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in Washington last week highlighted growing differences with the U.S. administration which welcomed Mr. Arafat's gesture.

"We welcome this clarification," said Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. "This is an issue obviously of great importance."

The possibility of a meeting of the 18-member PLO Executive Committee to clarify the issue was first raised by Palestinian official Nabil Shaath on Saturday.

Neither he nor Mr. Zaanun suggested a date.

## Greek minister invites Turkey to take disputes to justice court

ANKARA (AP) — In a rare interview with a Turkish newspaper, Greek Foreign Minister Theodoros Pangalos has invited Ankara to take all the Greek-Turkish disputes to the International Court of Justice.

The two neighbours' disagreements over the Aegean Sea have brought them to the brink of war several times in recent years. The icy relations have also hurt Turkey's aspirations to join the European Union, which

includes Greece.

"We have to solve all our problems via legal means, not by force," Mr. Pangalos said in an interview published Sunday in the daily Milliyet. "We suggest that we take all the disputes — from air space to continental shelf — to [the court in] Hague."

Greece has long insisted that the claims on uninhabited islets in the Aegean should be taken to the court, but Turkey has refused to offer, demanding talks first

on all the disagreements to decide how each can be solved. Mr. Pangalos moved a step further Sunday by suggesting all disputes could be settled by the court.

Mr. Pangalos added that even Turkey's objections to the militarisation of the Greek Dodecanese islands near Turkish coast could be taken to the Hague, although Athens in the past has said that issues of national security are only its business.

## New Cyprus base only for use if Turkey attacks — minister

NICOSIA (R) — Cyprus on Sunday said a newly constructed military base on the divided island to which Turkey is objecting would only be used in the event of a Turkish attack.

Cypriot Foreign Minister Ioannis Cassoulides told Reuters Turkey was welcome to complain to the U.N. Security Council about the base but added:

"At the Security Council they will have to give an explanation why the Turkish army is still in Cyprus and why Turkey is totally disregarding Security Council resolutions on Cyprus," he said.

"The military base was made in response to the presence of the Turkish army and will only be used in case

Turkey attacks Cyprus," said Mr. Cassoulides.

U.N. resolutions have repeatedly called for the reunification of the Eastern Mediterranean island and the withdrawal of some 30,000 Turkish forces currently occupying its northern third.

On Saturday Turkey said it would complain to the Security Council over the construction of the western base, describing it as a "dangerous development" on the militarily-divided island. Turkish Cypriot officials were equally critical.

The Cyprus government, internationally recognised as the only government in Cyprus, says it is its sovereign right to take steps to better the island's defence.

The base, which was for-

mally handed over to the authorities by its contractors on Saturday morning, will be used by Greek air force planes under a joint defence pact the Greek Cypriot-led government has with close ally Greece.

It is expected to officially open in March.

Ethnic Greeks and Turks of Cyprus have lived apart since Turkey invaded the north in 1974 after a brief Greek Cypriot coup in Nicosia engineered by the military ruling Greece.

Tense relations, however, date back to the early 1960s when a government in which both participated broke apart amid violence, prompting the dispatch of a U.N. peace-keeping force.

## Syrian lawyers to help Garaudy

DAMASCUS (R) — A Syrian lawyer's group said on Sunday it would help defend French Muslim author Roger Garaudy on trial in Paris for questioning the Nazi Holocaust against Jews.

"The decision was taken to confirm the Syrian lawyers' support and backing for intellectual Garaudy," a spokesman for the bar association said.

He said the group would provide a seven-member team to help in his defence.

"The association affirmed during a meeting its full solidarity with Garaudy against Zionist organisations which are trying through this political trial to silence any free voice that reveals the reality of the racial Zionist thoughts," the spokesman said.

Several anti-racism groups have accused Mr. Garaudy, 84, of denying crimes committed against humanity, itself a crime under French law, in his book "The Founding Myths of Israeli Politics."

Mr. Garaudy has denied any wrongdoing in the trial at a Paris court.

He has argued that Hitler's killing of the Jews amounted to "pogroms" or "massacres" but that it was an exaggeration to call the Nazi crimes "genocide" or a "Holocaust."

## Hizbollah hardliner looks to Iran to get expulsion reversed

BAALBEK (AFP) — Hardliners within the Lebanese Islamist group Hizbollah looked to Iran Sunday to reverse the leadership's decision to expel their leader Sheikh Sobhi Tufayli.

Sheikh Tufayli called for a tribunal of Shiite Muslim theologians from Iran as well as Lebanon to hear an appeal against his expulsion from the movement Saturday.

He would accept the decision of such a tribunal, he told reporters here.

Hundreds of Hizbollah hardliners braved the rain to show their support for the one-time secretary general of the movement who accuses its current leadership of "flirting with the government which is starving the people."

"Death to [Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik] Hariri, death to [Hizbollah Secretary General Hassan]

Nasrallah," shouted his supporters.

Sheikh Tufayli served as Hizbollah's first secretary general from 1985-7 but was stripped of any official position within the movement after opposing the leadership's decision to take part in Lebanon's 1992 elections.

He has since distanced himself further from the leadership, attacking it for being "subordinated to the Christians" for its 1995 decision to back the extension of the mandate of Christian President Elias Hrawi and starting his own civil disobedience movement in poverty-stricken eastern Lebanon in May last year.

Sheikh Tufayli has urged his supporters in the Revolt of the Hungry to "control themselves" because he "will not allow a single drop of blood to be shed in disputes between Shiites."

But the day before his expulsion he organised a rival rally here to the official Hizbollah demonstration of solidarity with the Palestinians.

About 5,000 of his supporters, including 1,200 fighters, took part in the event, while Hizbollah rallied nearly 7,500, including 2,200 guerrillas, police here said.

"Tufayli's determination to organise this demonstration disclosed his real goal, which isn't the protest movement but his desire to divide the ranks to impose himself by any means, no matter what the consequences," Hizbollah said.

The Revolt of the Hungry leader draws his strength from clans in the Baalbek-Hermel area, the poorest part of Lebanon, which has been even harder hit since a 1992 programme to eradicate cannabis and opium production.

## Mubarak calls on Muslim countries to fight terrorism

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak used the holiest night of the Islamic calendar to call on Muslim countries to fight terrorism carried out by people "claiming to be... protectors of Islam."

President Mubarak spoke Saturday night, which was Laylat Al Qadr, the Night of Destiny, in which tradition holds that an angel began revealing Islam's Holy Book, the Koran, to Islam's Prophet Mohammad.

"Those terrorist killers claiming to be the... protectors of Islam... should be condemned and

strongly deterred by the true believers because they are the enemies of God," Mr. Mubarak said in an address to government and religious figures that was broadcast nationally.

"This black terrorism aims to weaken the [Islamic] Nation, exhaust its powers and waste its resources," Mr. Mubarak said.

"It is the duty of every Muslim country and all Muslims to stand against this corrupt gang," the Egyptian president added.

Armed Islamists have been fighting since 1992 to replace President Mubarak's government

with strict Islamist rule. More than 1,200 people have been killed since the insurrection began.

Several leaders of Egypt's Islamist movement are believed to be living in Muslim countries such as Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The worst attack took place on Nov. 17 when members of the Gamaa Islamiya massacred 58 foreign tourists and four Egyptians in an pharaonic temple in the southern city of Luxor. The six attackers were killed by police.

The attack was a severe blow to Egypt's \$3 billion tourism industry.

### UAE man with 49 children abandons record bid

ABU DHABI (AFP) — A UAE man with 49 children has abandoned his bid to set a local record of 60 because it will mean an additional financial burden, a newspaper reported. Salim Juma Mubarak has 22 sons and 27 daughters from six wives, the Khaleej Times said. "Salim has finally decided not to marry any more... He says he is now convinced that more marriages mean more children and consequently more financial burden," the paper said. The 52-year-old man said five years ago he wanted to set a record in the UAE by having at least 60 children.

### 'Posh Spice' to wed Manchester United golden boy

MANCHESTER (AFP) — "Posh Spice" Victoria Adams and Manchester United football star David Beckham on Sunday announced their plans to marry after a high-profile romance. Sources close to the couple said they would marry this year, probably after the World Cup to take place in June and July in France when Beckham, 22, is expected to play for England. Victoria, 23, previously sought to calm the feverish speculation which began almost as soon as their romance kicked off last March. However, on Friday at the premiere of the Spice Girls' movie Spiceworld in Düsseldorf, Germany, she revealed: "My boyfriend is a footballer. We are getting married soon."

### Russian woman had forceps inside her for 25 years

MOSCOW (R) — Russian doctors have removed a forceps from a woman's abdominal cavity, 25 years after it was left there during an operation, Itar-Tass news agency said. The forceps was discovered when the 64-year-old woman went to a doctor in Saratov, southern Russia, complaining of abdominal pains. The worried doctor ordered an X-ray which revealed a gall-stone and the forceps.

### Malaysian crowd robs robbers of heisted jewellery

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — A Malaysian crowd ignored a warning shot fired by a robber as they scrambled for jewellery he dropped on a street after a bungled goldsmith shop heist. Masked robbers dropped a tray of jewellery as they were trying to escape after a \$111,000 hold-up of the goldsmith shop, The New Straits Times newspaper said. Bystanders in northern Alor Setar town quickly pounced on the gold, ignoring the robbers' attempt to scare them away, the newspaper added. The crowd and the robbers fled before police arrived at the scene.

### Newlywed who ran down husband gets jail

KENOSHA (R) — A newlywed couple's fight on their wedding night over the volume of country music playing on the radio ended up in court after the bride rammed the groom with their car, court officials said. A Kenosha county court judge gave Kimberly Borrego, 32, a one-month jail sentence and ordered her to undergo counselling after she admitted hitting her husband Manuel. He was not seriously injured. They had been drinking in a bar on the way to see her children from a previous marriage.